

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

THE DIALOGUE

September 2020



CHURCH STAFF

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From Pastor Christina

Do not go into this school year
with 2019 goals. This is 2020.
Have 2020 goals.

Safety.
Connection.
Mental wellness.
Physical health.
Maintain relationships.

EMILY W KING, PH.D.

September has always had a special place in my heart. As I kid, I looked forward to the beginning of the school year, ready with new school supplies and a lot of hopes and goals for what the year would look like. Church has always echoed a similar rhythm, where we typically begin a new program year in the life of the church after a summer of rest and renewal.

This year is unlike other years, as we are all experiencing. The familiar routines and return of our usual church rhythms and activities are going to look and feel very different. Those changes bring a mixture of feelings, including sadness and disappointment. Giving ourselves permission to process and feel those feelings is important to acknowledge where we are and find peace in the midst of all that is going on.

The image above, which I came across on social media recently, grabbed my attention. While there is a lot that is different, changed, or unknown, we do not have to let go of our goals and hopes for the year. Even as we process our feelings, we can set new goals and look at the opportunities before us. As Isaiah 43:19 reminds us, God is "about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

What would it look like for you to focus on safety as you navigate this fall? How can you focus on intentionally connecting with others in the congregation whether we are in-person or meeting virtually? How can we care for ourselves in these stressful times, and how can we maintain our relationship with God? Setting new goals, or even things to focus on, can open us up to the way God is making in these wilderness times.

Pray over these questions and these goals. See where God is nudging you to take a small step in that direction. God is with us, and God is actively bringing forth something new in our lives, in the life of our congregation, and in the world around us!

Deep Blessings,
Pastor Christina



Outdoor Worship at UMC Summit

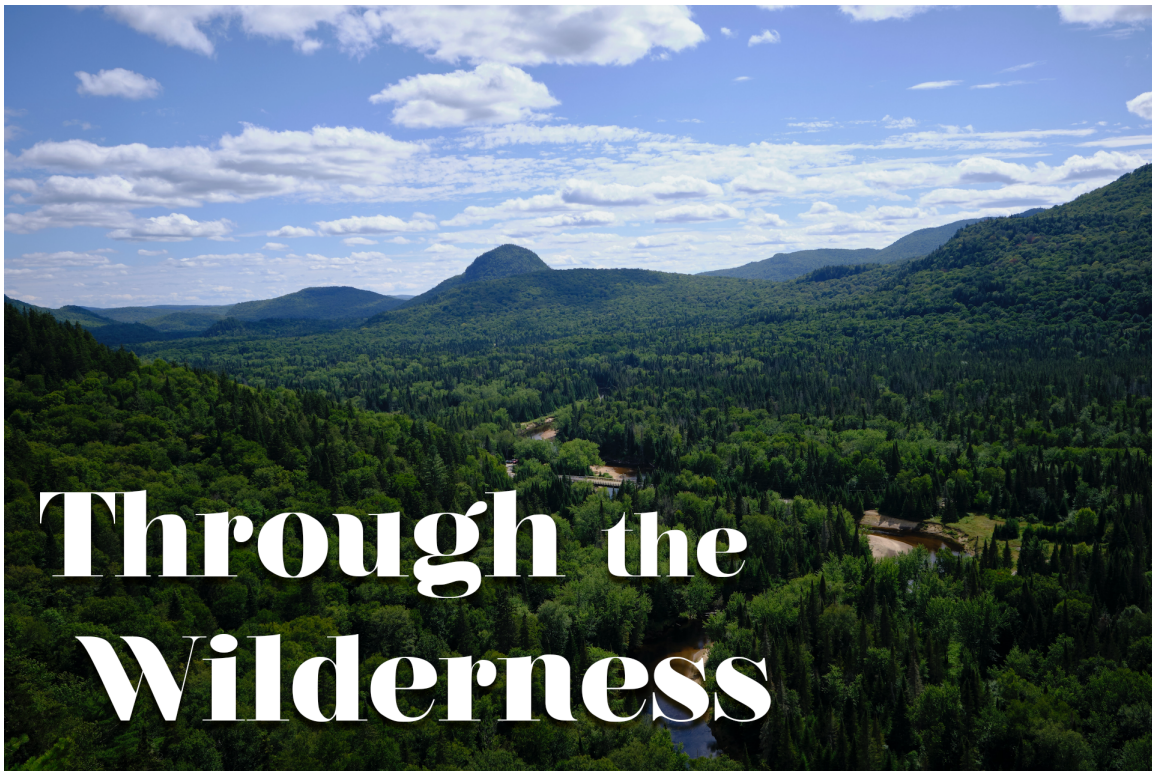
UMC Summit will begin outdoor worship services starting September 20, 2020.

Services will be at 10:30am and tentatively held in the driveway next to the church offices (accessed from Deforest Avenue). Ad Council approved the following health and safety protocols to be observed during worship:

- ❖ **Masks and maintaining 6 feet of social distancing between households will be required.** Remember, these practices are how we take care of one another. You are more than welcome to greet one another while maintaining a 6' distance!
- ❖ **Please bring a lawn chair or blanket with you.** A limited number of folding chairs will be available if you do not have a lawn chair (all folding chairs will be cleaned after use).
- ❖ **Bulletins will be distributed via email at the end of the week.** You are more than welcome to have this bulletin open on your phone during worship, or you can print out a hard copy to bring with you.
- ❖ Singing will not take place as a precaution to minimize airborne droplets. **Please do not sing along with hymns or special music during worship** (although you are welcome to hum or clap your hands!)
- ❖ **An offering plate will be available** in which to place your offering. We will not be passing the offering plate during the worship service. Online giving is also available.
- ❖ **Hand sanitizer will be available** for your use. All worship equipment will be sanitized and cleaned after use.
- ❖ **Communion** will be served on the first Sunday of the month in pre-packaged containers.
- ❖ **If you are not feeling well, please stay home!** Our services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook even as we gather outside.
- ❖ **If the weather forecast predicts rain for Sunday morning**, an email and Facebook post will go out Saturday evening notifying that the outdoor service is cancelled. The service will still be available in real time via livestream on Facebook.
- ❖ **We will need volunteers** to help with setting up, breaking down, and assisting with our livestream. Please contact the church office (office@umcsummit.org) if you can volunteer.
- ❖ **Parking or driving in the church driveway will not be allowed.** Please make use of parking spots around the church. Drop offs may be done on either Kent Place Boulevard or Deforest Ave.

Worship will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook at 10:30am.

WORSHIP



How often do you hear that these are unprecedented times? It's true that most of us haven't lived with a pandemic; and yet, periods of liminality, where we don't know yet what lies ahead, are regular occurrences in the lives of followers of Jesus. We call them wilderness experiences. But familiarity doesn't mean ease, and wandering through the wilderness is a difficult journey at the best of times. In this series, we will follow the wanders in the book of Exodus so that their stories can become our guide and help us through the wilderness of this time.

September 13: Into the Sea

- Exodus 14:19-31

September 20: What Is It?

- Exodus 16:2-15

September 27: Strike the Rock

- Exodus 17:1-7

MISSION



A LETTER FROM FAMILY PROMISE:

"Dear Rev. Lelache and everyone at the United Methodist Church of Summit,

On behalf of all of us at Family Promise Union County, thank you for the donation of \$400.00 to support our program during this challenging time.

There is no way to prepare for something you cannot imagine. The COVID-19 pandemic is particularly worrisome for our vulnerable families. Your donation will help us to continue to innovate, adapt, and adjust our program to new COVID-19 safety guidelines. One of the innovative things we have already done is work with landlords to place our current emergency shelter guests into temporary apartment homes to ensure they can "shelter in place". Thank you for helping us to keep vulnerable children and families safe during these uncertain times.

No goods or services were provided by Family Promise Union County in return for this contribution.

We are so grateful to you! We couldn't do this work without people like you.

Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

*Geleen G. Donovan
Executive Director*

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!



GRACE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are collecting the following items:

- ☐ RICE IN 1LB BAGS, PASTA, CANNED FISH OR CHICKEN
- ☐ LARGE REUSABLE BAGS
- ☐ WORKING ELECTRIC BLENDER
- ☐ FULL SIZED SHAMPOO, BODY WASH, DEODORANT, DIAPER CREAM, WIPES, BABY CEREAL, AND SIZE 2 THROUGH 6 DIAPERS

You may drop off donations at:

Summit Community Center 8.45-4.15 weekdays
Cornog Field House at 5 Myrtle Avenue Tuesday & Friday-Sunday 1PM, Monday 8.30AM

UPDATES

PASSING OF REV. DEAN LANNING

I am very sad to share that Rev. Dean Lanning passed away on August 20, 2020. Rev. Lanning served as the pastor of UMC Summit from 1972-1977. Please hold his wife, Dorris, his children, grandchildren, family and friends in your prayers.

Dorris has asked us to remember his life, and sends her warm greetings to our congregation during this sad time. Dean's obituary may be read below.

There will be a virtual service, but details are still being finalized with Dean and Dorris' church in Iowa and will be shared later as they develop. If you would like to send Dorris a message, please send your messages and memories to LanningMemories@gmail.com.

During these times, we remember and have hope in Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4). Even as we may grieve, we do so with gratitude to God for Dean's ministry among us and for the ways in which we helped share God's love in our congregation and so many other places.

Deep Blessings,
Pastor Christina

Obituary:

Rev. Dean Arden Lanning, 90, died on August 20, 2020 in Iowa City, IA. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Those who knew him will continue to celebrate his life and cherish the memories of his work.

Dean was born in 1929, to Orin and Laura (Vickers) Lanning, on a farm near Eagle, NE. He received his undergraduate degree at Nebraska Wesleyan University, from which he also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1987. While a student, he was a member of Pi Kappa Delta and Pi Gamma Mu. He graduated from Perkins Theological Seminary at SMU in 1955, and from Union Theological Seminary (affiliated with Columbia University) in 1959.

In 1952, Dean married Dorris M. Thomas of Lincoln, NE. They served pastorates in Clifton, Wayne, Summit, and Maplewood, NJ. Dean was an ordained United Methodist minister for forty-two years, six of which were spent as a District Superintendent in the Northern New Jersey Conference of the UMC.

He was a lifelong advocate for social justice. He was an active participant in the Civil Rights movement. Building relationships, he thought, was central to understanding one another. He was also committed to dialogue and understanding between different faith traditions. Rev. Lanning was an early and outspoken advocate for the ordination of lesbian and gay persons. Following his retirement, he participated in KAIROS, a prison ministry. He was an elected delegate to the General Conference of the UMC and served on the Board of Church and Society.

Dean loved sports and competition, but most of all, he enjoyed a game well played. He was an intense tennis player throughout his life! In later years he played a competitive game against younger family members, compensating for age, with strategy.

Rev. Lanning is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Dorris; four children, Lynne (Richard Smith), Leigh (Douglas) Hornick, Mary (Larry) Koskinen and Mark (Jeniphr Breckenridge); thirteen grandchildren; a great grandson, and nine nieces and nephews.

If you would like to make a contribution in his memory, gifts may be made to Eagle Nebraska UMC, P.O. Box 269, Eagle, NE, 68347; Nebraska Wesleyan Uni., 5000 St. Paul Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68504-2794, or Kidneeds c/o Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, 324 Third St. SE, Unit 400, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401.

Personal messages to the Lanning family may be sent to LanningMemories@gmail.com.

FALL GARDEN CLEAN-UP

Volunteers are needed to help with the Reeves Memorial Garden cleanup on Saturday, September 26 starting at 9 am. Bring your favorite garden tool with you to remove bushes and dig in the beds. Please let Jim Schaefer know if you are coming: james_schaefer@msn.com.

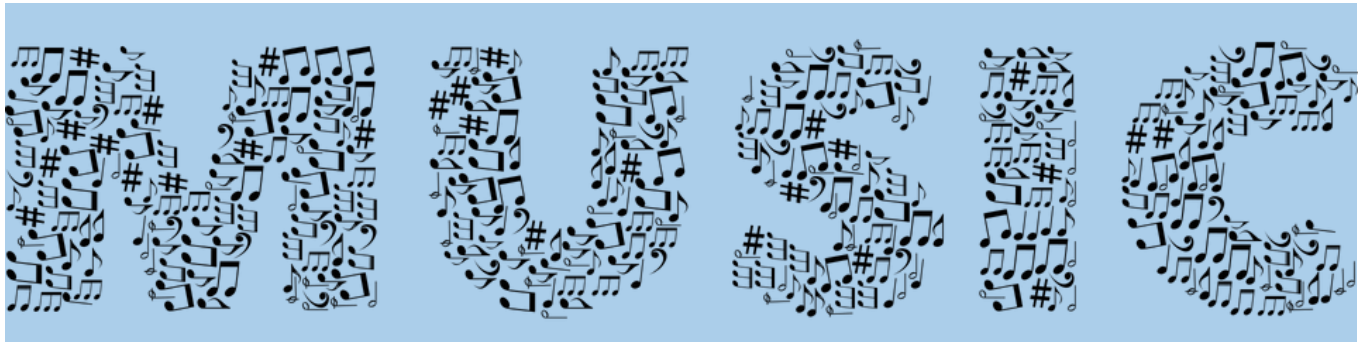


PASTORAL CARE

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.

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.



Dear Wonderful Music Makers:

“O Divine Wisdom, You are under and around all things, bringing order and harmony out of chaos and discord. Help us to sing, play instruments, to live in harmony with each other and with our brothers and sisters all over the world; through Jesus Christ in whom we are all one. Amen.”

We hold each other on our hearts and prayers, and all who bravely care for the hurting of this world. We are apart physically, but together in spirit.

Thank you so much for sharing your wonderful music videos. It is a joy to hear your voices and instruments while praising our Lord and Savior.

We would like to do virtual choir anthems, starting in October. I will be sending packets of anthems for October, November and December. We will share a guide to use in order to know how to record and where to send the videos.

Please share your thoughts at our Zoom Chats on Sundays at 9:45am

Zoom Chat:

Time: Sundays at 9:45am

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

Chat ID: 213 133 291

Dial-in by your location:

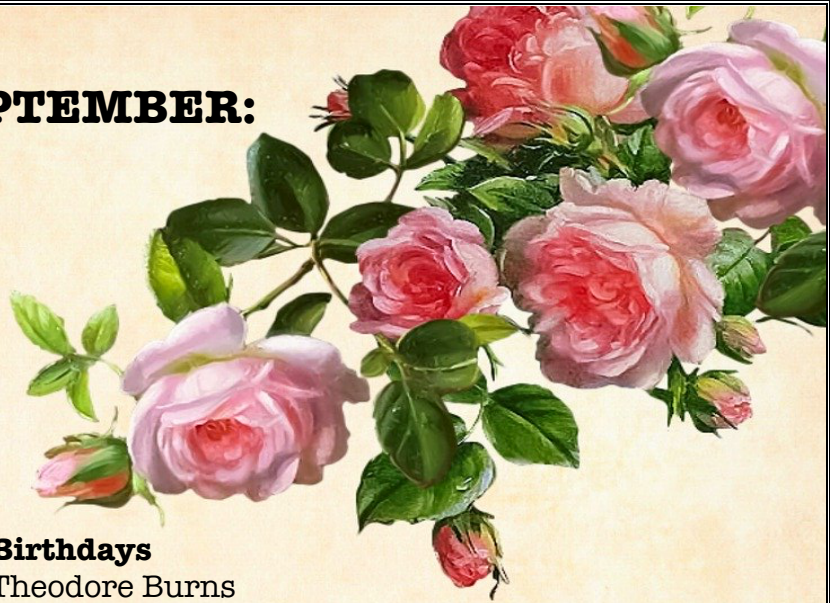
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

(Chat ID: 213 133 291)

With much love,

Joanne

CELEBRATE IN SEPTEMBER:



Date

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Birthdays

Theodore Burns

Matthew Dietzel

James Goldman

Macklin Dunnder

Owen Wilkins

Erin Marie Goetzl

Robert John Hugin

Alexander Rosnowski

Leslie Goetzl

Norma Dowe

Chloe Mansilla

Marcia Martin

Bob Koernig

Marty Miles

Max Mansilla

Leighton Andersen

Richard Keating

Dan Smith

Laura Wilkins

Christopher Dunnder

Bill Glancy

Anniversaries

Chris and Rica Vida

Bob and Davie Nycum

David and Maria Hughes

Faye and Chris Cunningham

Bob and Carole Reed

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