

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

THE DIALOGUE

October 2020



CHURCH STAFF

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From Pastor Christina

When I start driving, before I even back out of the driveway, I usually program my destination into my GPS. Even if I know where I'm going, I like that it tells me about upcoming turns or potential delays that will impact my trip. It's not uncommon for my husband, on the other hand, to get into the car, start driving, and then a few minutes later turn to me and say, "Wait a minute...where are we going?" We can all get into a car and start driving, but knowing where you are going helps provide a sense of direction!

The same is true for our own lives and our common life together as a community of faith. We trust that God calls us and guides our steps as we live out our faith, but reflecting on our why--or our purpose and values--helps us move forward with intention and can encourage us in hard times.

This month in worship, we'll begin a new sermon series called "Focus" that invites us to reflect on our individual whys and our why as a congregation, so we can discern how God is calling us in this season to love our neighbors, ourselves, and God.

Take time to reflect on your personal "why," as well as our congregation's "why," using these questions:

- What is your purpose?
- What do you value?
- What are the reasons behind what you do?
- How do your answers reflect the UMC mission statement ("to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"), and what connections do you notice?

Try turning your notes into a messy first draft of your why statement, and share it with me so that I can share them with our church leadership at the next Ad Council meeting in November.

You are loved, friends! I hope you feel that love and see and feel fresh reminders of God's love for you this month!

Blessings,
Pastor Christina

WORSHIP

Outdoor Worship

Our outdoor worship services will begin at 10:30am in the church driveway. Everyone will be required to wear a mask and adhere to 6ft of social distancing during the entire service. Folding chairs will be available for those who do not have a chair, although we ask that you please bring your own chair if possible.

Outdoor services will continue through the month of October. If the weather forecast does not look favorable, an email and an update to the church phone message will be posted by Saturday evening.

Online Worship

Our online worship service will also continue at 10:30am! You can watch the service on our [Facebook](#) page or by going to our [website](#). You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service.

If you would like to enhance your online worship experience, follow these tips:

- As the service begins, light a candle inviting God's presence into your worship space
- Have a Bible ready to explore the scripture and write down what the Spirit puts in your heart
- Extend the spirit of fellowship by engaging in the comments during the service and/or by reaching out to other members of the congregation afterwards. Hospitality happens not because we are in the same place, but because of how we reach out to one another!

All Saints Day - November 1

All Saints Day is an important day in the life of the church, where we pause to remember the saints of this congregation and beyond who have impacted our life and faith journeys. We will be remembering our saints in worship on November 1. If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like them remembered during our All Saints Day service, **please email their name and picture to office@umcsummit.org by Wednesday, October 14** (due to the need to pre-record for the online service).



OCTOBER WORSHIP SERIES -- FOCUS

Before a photographer picks up a camera, they generally have a sense of what their focus will be to help make a compelling and moving image. Likewise, as we seek to follow Jesus, knowing our “why” and focus can give us purpose and motivation, encourage us through hard times, and can also creatively recenter us for fruitful ministry. When is the last time you paused to reflect on why you follow Jesus and go to church? Join us in this series as we reflect on our personal and congregational “why” as we begin to discern together where God is calling us to focus!

October 4: What's Your Why?

- Philippians 3:4b-14

October 11: Adjusting Your Focus

- Philippians 4:1-9

October 18: Laity Sunday

- Exodus 33:12-23

October 25: Personal Style

- Matthew 22:34-40

UPDATES

A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE DIALOGUE

In order to streamline information coming from the church we will be merging the Dialogue and Weekly Opportunities email into one. Those who receive a hard copy of the Dialogue will see a new format mailed to them (with the same monthly birthday list included), and those who receive the weekly opportunities email will now see monthly birthdays and Music Ministry updates added at the beginning of the month. We welcome your feedback and ideas at office@umcsummit.org.

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. We are also continuing to regularly check the church's voicemail for messages left during the week. All messages will be answered between the hours of 9am and 3pm, Monday through Friday, by the next business day.

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.

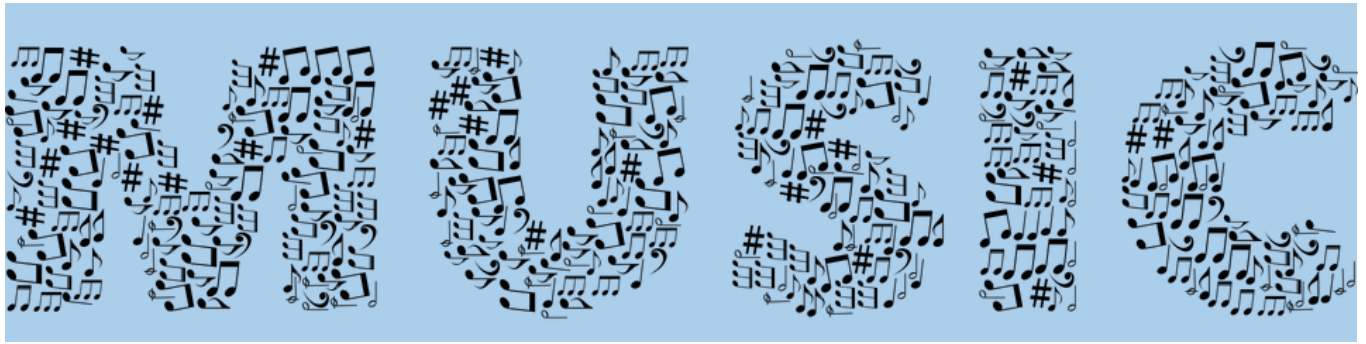
MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

"The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to talk a stand, to call each of us into a response." — *The United Methodist Book of Resolutions*

Our faith and Wesleyan heritage calls us to live out God's love in the world around us, advocating for a more just and peaceful society. Voting is one such way we respond in love to our neighbors. The United Methodist Church affirms voting as not only an act of prayer and faith, but a way in which people can influence the world in which we live and create change.

As we draw closer to the 2020 election, I invite you to register to vote (if you have not already done so) and make your plan for how you will vote this year. For information about how to vote this election, please visit: <http://www.unioncountyvotes.com/>. While geared towards residents in Union County, NJ, it contains helpful information for NJ voters.

The General Board of Church and Society, a general agency of The United Methodist Church, equips United Methodists around the globe to faithfully advocate for a more peaceful and just society. Their website provides resources on a number of social issues from a scriptural and United Methodist perspective, and has additional voting resources. Visit umcjustice.org to learn more.



"To You, O God, be blessing, honor, and power forever. For the gift of song and for the talents You have entrusted to us, we praise You, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen"

Please continue staying strong as we face the many challenges that confront us. "Jesus, Precious, Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more"

Thank you for sharing your musical videos for our worship experience - what a blessing you are. Pastor Christina has asked that we continue to share our videos for our livestream worship. So if you have not tried making a video, just sing along with William, Ryan and me, and enjoy singing God's praises.

Our choir chat will now be at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. I will be joining you from church at that time.

Our outdoor worship will be at 10:30am. Come and enjoy the great outdoors!

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 9:30am

Zoom Chat:

Time: Sundays at 9:30am

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)

The password is: **096591**

With much love,
Joanne

CELEBRATE IN OCTOBER:



Date

1
4
6
12

13
14
15
18
20
23

25
27
30
31

Birthdays

Eric Goldman
Janet Daniel
Chloe Tasse
Adrian Phillips
Kerry Relf
Emma Aird
Nena-Renee Smith
Conor Davis
Adam Daniel
Cliff Wilkins
Carole Reed
Dominik Tasse
William Johnson
Shela Waldron
Jack Schaefer
Denise Florindi

Anniversaries

3
11
20

John and Susan Hogg
Hillary Kruger and Kenneth Lordy
Jesse and Myrene Reyes

