



United Methodist
Church of Summit



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Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele

Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak

October 10th, 2021
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*Welcome to the United Methodist Church of Summit! We invite you to join us on a journey of faith,
worshiping and serving God.*

PRELUDE	<i>"Intrada" for Trumpet and Organ</i>	R. Wetzler
GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP		
*CALL TO WORSHIP: <i>(please rise as you are able)</i> Leader: God has called us to live in hope and service. People: Let us serve God. Leader: Place your trust in God's power and love. People: God understands our needs, our sorrows, and our joys. Leader: Come, let us worship the God who is always with us. Presence: Praise our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. AMEN.		Carol Conway
*CENTERING PRAYER: <i>(in unison)</i> Almighty God, we long to rest in your gentle arms. We need your compassion as we face the challenges and disappointments of life. When our hearts are hardened, and our concern is only for ourselves, turn us back to you. Remind us of your saving love and keep us close to you, Lord. Love us as only you can love, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.		
*OPENING HYMN: <i>How Great Thou Art</i> <i>(please remain standing as you are able)</i>		UMH #77
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		Natalie Palacio
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>Holy Lord</i> Chancel Choir	Thomas Fettke
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		Beverly Alexis
SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Jib 23 1-9,16-17 New Testament: Mark 10:17-31		Carol Conway
*HYMN OF PREPARATION: <i>(please rise as you are able)</i> <i>Give Thanks</i>		TFWS #2036
SERMON:	<i>The Silence of God</i>	Beverly Alexis

OFFERING

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Variations on an "Early American Hymn"

***CLOSING HYMN:** *(please rise as you are able)*
Precious Lord

UMC #474

*BENEDICTION

BELL CHOIR *"Go Now in Peace"*

POSTLUDE *Voluntary on the hymn "Beautiful Savior"*

** Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.*

Hearing Aid Receivers and Large Print Hymnals are available from our ushers.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Walter, Doug, Jonathan, Tina Marie, those struggling with mental health, Family Promise Team, Ken Green, Rosa Smith, Christine Zotti, Betty, Madison, family and friends of William, Christopher (colon cancer), Leah (hospice), Johnny and David (car crash), Gonella/Erb family, family and friends of Audrey, Adrian, friends and family of Ruth, the people of Afghanistan, the people of Haiti, all those suffering from the effects of COVID19.

Schedule for Week of October 10th

Sunday, October 10th:

9:00am Instrumentalists (Sanctuary)
9:30am Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
9:30am Christian Drama Club (Social Hall)
9:30am Bible Study (Chapel)
10:30am In-person/online Worship
10:45am Sunday School (second floor)
11:30am Coffee Hour (outside)
11:45am Bell Choir
12:15pm Contemporary Ensemble

Monday, October 11th:

3:00-5:30pm Summit Cheerleaders (Social Hall)
7:45-9:30pm GA (Chapel and Fellowship)

Tuesday, October 12th:

1:00 -9:30pm Debbi's Dance Classes (2nd floor)
3:00-5:30pm Summit Cheerleaders (Social Hall)
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Wednesday, October 13th:

12:00pm Lunch and Learn (Memorial Garden)
1:00-9:30pm Debbi's Dance Classes (2nd floor)

7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)
7:30-9:30pm Toastmasters (Social Hall)

Thursday, October 14th:

3:30-9:00pm Debbi's Dance Classes (2nd floor)

Friday, October 15th:

3:00-5:30pm Summit Cheerleaders (Social Hall)
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Saturday, October 16th:

8:00-2:30pm Debbi's Dance Classes (2nd floor)
9:30-11:15am Music Together (Memorial Garden)
11:30am Wesley Choir (Sanctuary)

To Mask or Not to Mask, that is the *(complicated)* Question

Greetings Church Family,

Peace to you this day in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. I am writing today to clarify and communicate once again our current safety recommendations regarding the spread of COVID19. Before I get into the nitty gritty, I want to start by celebrating the small victories our church has had over the past six months. First and foremost, I celebrate the joy that our church is open once again after being closed for over a year.

Nothing about the past eighteen months has been easy. Our congregation and staff have worked tirelessly with care and compassion to ensure we could finally reopen safely. Not only have we started in-person worship once again, but we have welcomed our outside groups back into the building: AA, GA, Toastmasters, Music Together, Summit High School Cheerleaders, and Ms. Debbi's Dance School have all returned to share our wonderful space once again. In addition to in-person worship, we have also kicked-off our Music Ministry and Children's Ministry programs by welcoming back our Choirs, Ensembles, Sunday School program, and Youth Group! Friends, to do all of this safely in just three months is nothing short of a miracle. It is a victory!

Cue the music: *"Oh victory, in Jesus, my Savior, forever...."*

But, as with many things COVID19 related, for as many steps as we have taken forward, we undoubtedly have hit a few setbacks along the way. As case numbers were dropping at the beginning of June, the Administrative Council updated our guidelines to reflect the new CDC recommendations that vaccinated persons did NOT have to continue to wear masks indoors. It was a sweet taste of "normalcy" throughout the month of July as many of us attended worship and meetings without masks. Unfortunately, that sweet taste of normalcy did not last very long. As of July 27th, 2021; given new evidence on the Delta variant, the CDC amended the recommendation for fully vaccinated people to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. Unfortunately, as of Friday July 29th, Union County moved suddenly into the "high transmission" category. As a result, our church had to recommend all persons once again wear masks in worship.

Friends, I know this is hard. I know this is annoying and we are all tired. Masks have become a complicated topic in our lives. But here's what else I know: we are the Church! We are the body of Christ in mission to all the world and one thing we can do better than the rest of society is come together on common ground for the good of all persons. We have children in our worship services that still do not even have a choice to get a vaccine. We have immunocompromised individuals in our church - those fighting cancer and other diseases – who are at risk. This isn't about me, or you – this is about us. When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, he didn't say “*My Father who art in heaven...give me this day my daily bread...*” No! He taught the disciples to pray “*Our Father who art in heaven...give us this day our daily bread...*”

Case counts and transmission rates in our area are going down. Experts suggest the Delta surge may be dwindling. As of today, October 7th, 2021; Union County has moved from the “high transmission” category to the “substantial category”. We are watching the numbers every day, and the moment Union County moves to “moderate” or “low” we will update the recommendation of unmasking in worship once again. As per the Greater New Jersey Conference of the UMC, we must follow local and state guidelines. Attached to this letter are our current safety guidelines. Please read them carefully as they vary for different events and groups inside the church.

In the meantime, please pray. Pray that we can continue to celebrate the small victories we have had over the past three months. Pray that we continue to see new families in our church. Pray that we can show the rest of the world what it looks like to be the body of Christ, unified in our mission. And, as always, my door is always open if you would like to share your thoughts and feelings on any of these subject matters. All voices are welcome to the table.

Stay in the Light,

Pastor Laura



United Methodist Church of Summit

Creating a Safe Environment for our Church Community

Over the past few months UMC Summit has had to make careful and compassionate decisions regarding our safety protocols in relation to the spread of COVID19. The following protocols are broken down into specific categories we hope will help clarify our current safety protocols:

Worship: In response to the spread of the Delta variant, as of July 27th, 2021, the CDC updated its guidance for mask wearing in public indoor settings for fully vaccinated people in areas where coronavirus transmission is high. We are asking that ALL persons - fully vaccinated or not - mask during worship. We will continue with socially distanced seating, and the windows and doors in the Sanctuary will be open during worship to increase ventilation.

Small Groups and Committee Meetings: Our small groups and committees continue to be welcomed to meet indoors. We recommend that group leaders and committee chairpersons communicate with their members to gauge the comfort level of masking/unmasking indoors. Indoor capacity limits have been lifted, however, we recommend groups and committees continue to socially distance. We also suggest offering a zoom option for members who may not be comfortable meeting in person.

Children's Activities: We ask that all children between the ages of 2-11 years old continue to wear masks when participating in our indoor activities. Please continue to respect one another's boundaries and choices as we continue to take these reopening steps. Not everyone is able to receive a vaccine at this point, especially those under the age of 12, so regardless of our vaccination status, we want to make sure we are continuing to care for one another's health and well-being in the most Christ-like ways possible.