



United Methodist  
Church of Summit



17 Kent Place Boulevard  
Summit, NJ 07901  
(908) 277-1700

[office@umcsummit.org](mailto:office@umcsummit.org)  
[umcsummit.org](http://umcsummit.org)

[www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchofSummit](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchofSummit)

Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele  
Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak

**October 17th, 2021**

**Laity Sunday**

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

**PRELUDE**

*"God Is With Us"*

J.S. Bach

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: Servants of God, lift up your heads,

**People: May the Lord of life behold our eyes!**

Leader: Servants of God, lift up your hands,

**People: May the Lord of life bless our works!**

Leader: Servants of God, lift up your hearts,

**People: May the Lord of life abide within!**

**\*CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**Wondrous God, you have uniquely created each of us and called us together to strengthen and support each other in the work of your kingdom. Help us, O LORD to embrace our differences as we live in covenant with you and with one another. We give thanks for the blessings and challenges of shared ministry. We confess that we have not always given freely of our time and talents. We have waited for others to step up. We have feared that we were not adequate, relying on our own understanding rather than trusting in you. Help us, O God, to step out in faith as we seek to bring your kingdom come here on Earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

*Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* UMH #581  
*(please remain standing as you are able)*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Natalie Palacio

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"We Are Called"*  
Chancel Choir

David Haas

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Alison Johnson

**SCRIPTURE:**

Old Testament: Psalm 67 (NIV)

New Testament: 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *(please rise as you are able)*  
*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

TFWS 2171

**LAITY SUNDAY RECOGNITION:** "The Wesleys"

**OFFERING**

*(Due to safety precautions, we are not currently passing the offering baskets. They are located at the entrance and exits to the sanctuary. Please leave your offering in one of the baskets as the Spirit moves you)*

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**

*Voluntary on "Be Thou My Vision"*

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** *(please rise as you are able)*  
*The Servant Song*

TFWS 2222

**\*BENEDICTION**

**BELL CHOIR** "Go Now in Peace"

**POSTLUDE**

*Variations on the hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns"*

*\* 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**

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary to Myrene and Jesse Reyes, 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 17th**

##### **Sunday, October 17th:**

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 (2nd floor)  
11:30am Coffee Hour (Outside)  
11:45am Bell Choir (Sanctuary)  
12:15pm Contemporary Ensemble (Sanctuary)  
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

##### **Monday, October 18th:**

3:00-5:30pm Summit Cheerleaders (Social Hall)  
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)  
7:45-9:30pm GA (Chapel and Fellowship)

##### **Tuesday, October 19th:**

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 20th:**

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 21st:**

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

##### **Friday, October 22nd:**

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

##### **Saturday, October 23rd:**

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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Service of Remembrance:**

Community members are invited to a memorial gathering honoring those loved ones lost during the pandemic, which will be held **October 17, beginning at 5 p.m.**, on the lawn of Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, 70 Maple Street.

While Central Presbyterian Church is hosting the event, the service will not be a religious in nature, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend and mourn together as a community.

Several community leaders will speak, including New Jersey Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz, Summit Mayor Nora Radest, and Executive Director of Overlook Foundation at Overlook Medical Center Clelia Biamonti. Attendees will be invited to write the names of their lost loved ones on cards that will be gathered and put in a box to be interred in a memorial garden that is planned for the site of the memorial service.

**Gift Card Drive:**

UMC Summit is collecting ShoptRite gift cards for Family Promise of Union County in increments of \$25. You can drop gift cards off at the church office Mon.-Fri. from 9am to 3pm, you can order online and have them mailed to the church, or you can drop them in the basket at the Sunday 10:30AM service.

**Reminder: Masking in Worship**

As of July 27th, 2021; the CDC has modified its public health recommendation regarding indoor masking for fully vaccinated persons. We are asking that ALL persons - fully vaccinated or not - mask while inside the church. Thank you for your understanding.

**Flood Buckets:**

As GNJ's Disaster Response team continues moving forward with the Ida relief effort, it has become apparent that there is a great need for more cleaning buckets. Over the next few weeks, UMC Summit will be

collecting buckets and supplies. **Here is a list of items needed:**

- 5 Gallon Buckets,
- 32–64 oz. bottles liquid laundry detergent,
- 16–40 oz. bottles liquid concentrate household cleaner,
- 16–34 oz. bottles liquid dish soap ,
- 4–8 oz. pump spray air freshener,
- 6–14 oz. pump spray insect repellent,
- Scrub brushes,
- Re-usable cleaning wipes,
- Scouring pads,
- 50–100 ft. clothesline,
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33–45 gallon sizes),
- N95 particulate respirator dust masks,
- Kitchen gloves, work gloves.





**Youth Activity:**

We have a new event on the calendar for **Friday, October 29th at 7:00pm** at Skyzone Trampoline Park, 25 US-22, Springfield, NJ 07081. This is in lieu of our Corn Maze event since there seemed to be some conflicts and a Friday evening looked like it would work out better.

Please confirm that this time works for your families. We would like to accommodate the schedule so that as many youth can come out as possible.

**Please hold off purchasing tickets until we have confirmation from all parents cc'd here.**

Once we confirmed that most if not all our youth can come out this evening we will have each parent purchase a ticket and register for the event in the link below:

[Skyzone Youth Outing Tickets](#)

The ticket will be for an hour of jump time for the 7 o'clock hour and there should be a waiver to fill out from the Skyzone site too. It's about \$25 per person. Please use *internet explorer* if you have any issues on the site or feel free to reach me if all else fails.



## **Join our Music Ministries!**

### **Chancel Choir:**

Won't you come and join us as we sing joyful and meaningful songs to the Lord? It's a joy to work together and lift our voices in praise of our Maker. The Chancel Choir rehearsals continue at 9:30am each Sunday in the Sanctuary.

### **Wesley Choir:**

Calling all children 4 years old and up, to come and sing joyful songs of the church. Let us grow together in our faith, through music. Rehearsals are at 11:30am on Saturday mornings in the Sanctuary.

### **Bell Choir:**

Come and try ringing hand bells and hand chimes with your church friends. Rehearsals are Sundays at 11:45am in the Sanctuary.

### **Contemporary Ensemble:**

Our Contemporary Ensemble shares music for Holy Communion each month. The Ensemble uses music from the contemporary hymnals "The Faith We Sing" and "Worship and Song". Rehearsals will be on Sundays and 12:15pm in the Sanctuary.