



United Methodist
Church of Summit



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

December 12th, 2021
Third Sunday in Advent

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

PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy”

J.S. Bach

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Relf Family

Reader 1: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of JOY. JOY comes to Mary like a jolt in the night. In her surprise, in her “yes”, JOY breaks through, a joy that flows not from what is human, but from what is Holy.

Light three blue candles

Reader 2: Let us pray: Generous God, Give us JOY that breaks through the darkness in our lives. May your presence surprise us as we go about our days. May your presence open us to say “yes” to what brings holiness for us and others. May we notice You with us, here and now.
Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Emily LaJeunesse

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: God has called us to gather here as beloved children.

People: We gather this day as servants of the Lord.

Leader: We come together again on this journey, following the Light.

People: May God’s light shine for us today, bringing peace and comfort.

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

Gracious and Loving God, today we pause from the busyness of the season and come before you in worship and praise. We need the peace, hope, love and joy that this season represents. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive Your Words and Your blessings. May we prepare our hearts and souls to be touched by Joy this day. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN:**

“Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly”

UMH #272

(please remain standing as you are able)

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Natalie Palacio, CYF Minister

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Creation Will Be at Peace”

Anna Page

Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Beverly Alexis

SCRIPTURE:

Emily LaJeunesse

Old Testament: Isaiah 12:2-6 (NRSV)

New Testament: Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *(please rise as you are able)*
"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" TFWS #2099

MESSAGE: *God With Us: Fear or Faith?*
Rev. Laura Steele, Pastor

OFFERING

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night"

***DOXOLOGY** *(please rise as you are able)*
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

***CLOSING HYMN:** *(please rise as you are able)*
"Joy to the World" UMH #246

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Festival Recessional" Robert Wetzler

** 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

Leroy, Joan D, Rick Picorale, Gregory Carter, Baby William Joseph Kenny and family for healing and strength, Jane McKinley, Kathy Whipps (Alison's mom), family of Dara Callender, Walter, Doug, Jonathan, Tina Marie, those struggling with mental health, Family Promise Team, Ken Green, Rosa Smith, Christine Zotti, Betty, Madison, all those suffering from the effects of COVID19.

Schedule for Week of December 5th

Sunday, December 12th

9:00am Instrumentalists (Sanctuary)
9:30am Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
9:30am Christian Drama Club (Social Hall)
10:30am In-person/online Worship
10:45am Sunday School (2nd floor)
11:30am Caroling on the Point
11:30am Bell Choir (Sanctuary)
12:00pm Singing Believers (Sanctuary)
12:15pm Contemporary Ensemble (Sanctuary)
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Monday, December 13th

7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)
7:45-9:30pm GA (Chapel and Fellowship)

Tuesday, December 14th:

7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Wednesday, December 15th:

7:00pm Staff/Parish Meeting
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)
7:30-9:30pm Toastmasters (Social Hall)

Thursday, December 16th

7:30pm Finance Committee Meeting

Friday, December 17th:

7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Saturday, December 18th:

11:30am Wesley Singers (Sanctuary)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caroling on the Point:

Sunday, December 12

After worship.

Get into the holiday spirit and join the United Methodist Church of Summit in singing traditional carols and holiday favorites outside the church. Afterwards, warm-up with hot chocolate, hot cider and cookies.



Blue Christmas Service:

Tuesday December 21 7:00pm

*"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God."
(Isaiah 40:1)*

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who

looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. The Christmas season can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays.

If you are looking for comfort and healing, or simply want to take a moment to pause from this busy time of year, please join us on **Tuesday, Dec. 21st, at 7PM in the Chapel** for a Blue Christmas Service. We will have a time of prayer, reflection, soft music, and candle lighting.

Christmas Eve Services:

Friday, December 24

5:00PM - Family Friendly Service with Christmas Pageant. Come join our children and youth in the Sanctuary as they bring alive the story of Christ's birth.

9:00PM - Traditional Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols



Summit UMC Christmas Mission and Outreach Project

Every person is made in the image of God. No life is beyond His reach. Founded in 1976, Prison Fellowship® exists to serve all those affected by crime and incarceration and to see lives and communities restored in and out of prison—one transformed life at a time. This year, UMC Summit will be participating in a Virtual Angel Tree Christmas Mission project. It is a special outreach program that is part of the Prison Fellowship ministry. At Christmas time, Angel Tree shares the love of Christ in a tangible way that can strengthen family bonds while delivering a personalized gift and the Gospel to a child on behalf of their incarcerated parent.

Visit our website www.umcsummit.org and click on the “Angel Tree” button. There you will find the link and code with all the directions as well. *(The code is S6I7F, it is the letter “I” after the 6, not the number “1”).*

Children, Youth and Family Ministries Update

Our Children, Families, and Youth Ministries programming has started once again. Each Sunday there is something for everyone! Under the direction of our new Children, Families, and Youth Minister; our new Sunday schedule for children and youth is as follows:

9:30AM-10:15AM: Christian Drama Club for ages K-12th grade (Social Hall)

10:30AM-10:45AM: Worship in the Sanctuary

10:45AM - 11:30AM: Sunday school for ages K-5th grade (2nd floor)

11:30AM: Coffee Hour

*Children are always welcome to stay in worship, Sunday school is optional for those families who wish to attend.

If you have any questions, please email our Children, Youth, and Families Minister Natalie Palacio at: CYFMinister@umcsummit.org



Masking in Worship

As of Monday, November 1st, 2021; the Administrative Council of SUMC voted the church should follow CDC recommendations for masking during Sunday morning worship based on the published COVID -19 transmission rate for Union County. For **low and moderate** transmission rates, the CDC recommends all unvaccinated persons wear masks while vaccinated persons may attend unmasked (if so desired) as the risk for infection is considered low. For **substantial and high** transmission rates, the CDC recommends ALL persons wear a mask regardless of vaccination status to mitigate the risk of infection.

As of December 1st, 2021; the transmission rate in Union County, and all of the surrounding counties of Essex, Morris, Middlesex, and Somerset; have all moved into the "High" or "Very High" category of transmission rate. As a result, we will continue to ask everyone to wear a mask during Sunday morning worship until the transmission rate drops back down to moderate or low.

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 Singers:

Children and youth who would like to sing songs of faith please share your gifts of music on Saturday morning at 11:30am in our Sanctuary. We will make a joyful sound to the Lord.

Bell Choir:

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

Singing Believers:

We welcome all children 4 years old and up, to sing joyful songs of the church each Sunday at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. Please have a snack at coffee hour, then come back to church to share fun songs of faith.

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.