



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

**December 19th, 2021**  
**Fourth 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** *"Panis Angelicus"* Cesar Franck  
**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** Reyes Family

**Reader 1:** On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of LOVE. LOVE calls out to the shepherds and invites them to be part of the extraordinary events of the birth of a Savior. LOVE calls to us and says, "You are here too, witness this great miracle." LOVE calls out to each and every one of us, drawing us into a story bigger than ourselves.

***Light four blue candles***

**Reader 2:** Let us pray: God of great miracles, Give us LOVE that opens our eyes to see those who have been cast out or dismissed by society. Give us the kind of LOVE that opens our souls to see ourselves and others more clearly. May your LOVE fill us and draw us into participation into acts that transcend and transform humanity by your great power. May we notice you truly with us, here and now. Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *"A Joyful Ring"* Bell Choir  
*(please rise as you are able)* Craig Burns

Leader: Come to worship Emmanuel, God with us!

**People: Like the shepherds, we have received the invitation to seek out Jesus.**

Leader: God invites you to seek out Jesus and share him with others.

**People: With open hearts, open minds, and open doors, we share the good news of a Savior.**

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

Everlasting God, thank you for sending Jesus on that astonishing night, while shepherds watched their flocks. Thank you for your unending Love, which is available to all people. Thank you for this gospel of grace and for entrusting us, no matter who we are, to ponder, treasure, and share it with the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN:** *"Advent Song" (vs. 1-4)* TFWS #2090  
*(please remain standing as you are able)*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*"The Drummer Boy"* Singing Believers

**ANTHEM** *"Baby Boy"* Donald Besig  
Chancel Choir

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SCRIPTURE:** Craig Burns

Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5 (NRSV)

New Testament: Luke 2:8-20 (NRSV)

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *(please rise as you are able)*  
*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

UMH #229

**MESSAGE:** *God With Us: Showing Up is Half the Battle*  
Rev. Laura Steele, Pastor

**OFFERING**

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION** *Voluntary on "Manger Songs"*

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

UMH #95

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** *(please rise as you are able)*  
*"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"*

TFWS #2096

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *"Joyous Recessional"*

*\* 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 COVID-19.

**Schedule for Week of December 19th**

**Sunday, December 19th**

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 Coffee Hour (Social Hall)  
11:30am Bell Choir (Sanctuary)  
11:30am Staff/Parish Meeting  
12:00pm Singing Believers (Sanctuary)  
12:15pm Contemporary Ensemble (Sanctuary)  
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

**Monday, December 20th**

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

**Tuesday, December 21st:**

7:00pm Blue Christmas Service (Chapel)  
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

**Wednesday, December 22nd:**

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

**Friday, December 24th: Office is Closed**

5:00pm Family Friendly Service with Pageant (Sanctuary)  
9:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)  
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**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



## 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](mailto: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.