



United Methodist  
Church of Summit



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

**December 24th, 2021**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 9pm**

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

**PRELUDE**

*“Canon in D”*

J. Pachelbel

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The La Jeunesse Family

Reader 1: On this holy night, we light the Christ candle, a reminder of the light of the world come to dwell with us and within us. Christ is the mystery of God taking on a human body to reveal God’s wisdom. Christ is our ultimate hope, our reason for joy, our source of peace, and our evidence that love reigns.

*Light four BLUE candles and the center WHITE candle.*

Reader 2: Let us pray: Incarnate God, May we embrace the mystery of your birth among us this night. May Your Spirit fill us with your presence this day. May we be signs of light for others, through our willingness to be transformed by your grace, and through our amazement at this sacred story that reminds us who we are and whose we are. May we notice you truly with us, here and now. **AMEN.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Rev. Laura Steele

*(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: We gather this evening, once again, to experience the miracle of the Christmas story.

**People: We come longing to hear a word of peace and joy.**

Leader: Like the shepherds and wise ones, we have journeys to make and gifts to offer.

**People: With hope in our hearts we offer light to the world.**

Leader: Here, in the stillness of a winter’s night, we gather to share that light, the light of Christ.

**People: We gather in the wonder of this night to share peace, hope, love and joy. AMEN.**

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

**God of Immeasurable Gifts, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Savior born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we experience the story anew. Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your love and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vs. 1-4) UMH #234

*(please remain standing as you are able)*

**LESSONS AND CAROLS:  
THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD AND SONG**

**THE FIRST LESSON**          Isaiah 9:2-7    Bill Glancy  
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

\*Carol      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vv. 1, 3)      UMH #211

**THE SECOND LESSON**          Isaiah 11:1-9    Alison Johnson  
The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's Creation.

*Carol for Christmas*    Latonia Hall and Ximenita Gonzalez

**THE THIRD LESSON**          Luke 1:26-38    Emily La Jeunesse  
The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*    Bell Choir

**THE FOURTH LESSON**          Luke 2:1-7    Carol Conway  
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born in a stable.

\*Carol          *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vv. 1, 2)      UMH #230

**THE FIFTH LESSON**          Luke 2:8-20    Kuda Mtisi  
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

*See Him Laying on a Bed of Straw*      Contemporary Ensemble

**THE SIXTH LESSON**          Matthew 2:1-12    Latonia Hall  
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

*Christmas Variations in A Minor*    arr. Jesse Reyes, Guitar

**THE SEVENTH LESSON**          John 1:1-14    Beverly Alexis  
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

*Can You Hear the Angels*    Chancel Choir

**REFLECTION**                          *The Greatest Gift*  
Rev. Laura Steele

**OFFERING**

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**  
*O Holy Night*

William Teubner, Trumpet

\***DOXOLOGY**  
*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*    UMH #95

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

## **SPREADING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

\*Carol *Silent Night* UMH #239  
(The Christ candle will be lit from the altar and shared with the first two pews. Please share your light with the person next to you, persons on the end pass to the pew behind)

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *"Praise Ye The Lord of Hosts"*

*\* 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 26th**

### **Sunday, December 26th**

9:00am Instrumentalists (Sanctuary)  
9:30am *Chancel Choir – Resumes January 23*  
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 – Resumes January 23*  
12:00pm *Singing Believers – Resumes January 23*  
12:15pm *Contemporary Ensemble – Resumes January 23*  
7:30-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Monday, December 27th**

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

### **Tuesday, December 29th:**

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

### **Wednesday, December 30th:**

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

### **Friday, December 31st: *Office is Closed***

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

### **Chancel Flowers at Christmas 2021**

**Adrian, Faye and Kim** in loving memory of Cynthia Phillips and Connie Goldman. In honor of Shela Waldron – you make life interesting.

**Bernice, Nikki and Beverly** in honor of Norma Dowe, their loving mother and aunt.

**Beverly, Danlo, Sandra, Gillian, Barry and Lisa** in loving memory of their beloved mother Joyce Smith.

**The Barry Family** with thankfulness for their family and friends.

**The Burns Family** in honor of their family and friends at UMC of Summit.

**Maria Caneiro** in loving memory of the Caneiro, Gonzalez and Veloso Families.

**Marg and Alf Edwards** in loving memory of their brother-in-law, Al Curt.

**Isabel Gonzalez** in loving memory of Peggy Raleigh, the Bononato Family and Eduardo Gonzalez.

**David, Maria and Richard Hughes, Angelica Policastro, Betsy Caulfield, Deann Lentz and Jennifer Seeger** in loving memory of Lloyd and Adele Hughes.

**Emily La Jeunesse** in loving memory of Stan & Lois Leming, Emile and Josephine (Jaye) La Jeunesse, and Muriel DeBow. In Honor of Parker and Alec La Jeunesse.

**Liz Martin** in loving memory of Grover Martin.

**Debbi Picorale** in loving memory of her mom, dad and brother Tony.

**The Relf Family** in loving memory of Bert and Joy Baker. In honor of Tony and Maureen Relf.

**Shela Waldron** in loving memory of her mother, Cynthia Phillips. In honor of her grandchildren.

**Beverly Wolff** in loving memory of her parents, Elsie and Lynford Hulin; her sister, Linda Hoy.

## 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) – taking a break until January 23rd**

**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: Resumes January 23**

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: Resumes January 22**

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: Resumes January 23**

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

### **Singing Believers: Resumes January 23**

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: Resumes January 23**

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.