



United Methodist
Church of Summit



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Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele
Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak
Children, Youth, Family Minister: Natalie Palacio

May 29, 2022
Ascension 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: *Voluntary on "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"*

S. Ward

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Lou Steele

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

People: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Leader: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

People: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Leader: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

People: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

Lou Steele

God of mystery, dissolve the illusions of this world that keep us from seeing your full glory and might. Open our eyes to behold the risen Christ. Open our hearts this day so that our spirits may be fully connected to you. Focus our thoughts on the power of your grace and the calling to which we have been called. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** *(please remain standing as you are able)*

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH #140

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Laura Steele

CHOIR ANTHEM *"Battle Hymn of the Republic"*
Chancel Choir

P. Wilhousky

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Laura Steele

Memorial Day Litany

Almighty God, before whom stand the living and the dead, we as your children, whose mortal life is but a hand's breadth, give thanks to you:

For all those through whom you have blessed on our pilgrimage, whose lives have empowered us, whose influence is a healing grace,

People: We lift up our thankful hearts.

Leader: For the dear friends and family members whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us forever...

People: We lift up our thankful hearts.

Leader: For the teachers and companions of our childhood and youth, and for the members of our household of faith who worship you now in heaven...

People: We lift up our thankful hearts.

Leader: For those who sacrificed themselves, our brothers and sisters who have given their lives for the sake of others...

People: We lift up our thankful hearts.

Leader: May we hold them all in continual remembrance.

People: We lift up our thankful hearts.

Leader: May we, as those who have gone before us, be dedicated to working for a world where there is unity, love, and service to spread the peace of Christ.

People: Day by day may we magnify you O Lord, and worship your Holy name, for ever and ever we pray, Amen.

(United Methodist Book of Worship #440)

SCRIPTURE:

Lou Steele

Old Testament: Psalm 34:15-18

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

New Testament: Luke 24: 45-53 (NIV)

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension of Jesus

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *(please rise as you are able)*

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (sung 3x)

TFWS #2193

A TIME OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Let us pray.

Grant, almighty God, that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Silent prayer or time of sharing.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,
in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Silent prayer or time of sharing.

Give us all a reverence for this life as your own creation,
May we resist the forces of evil and injustice that permeate this land, May we be in service to others through your honor and glory.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Silent prayer or time of sharing.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loved us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Silent prayer or time of sharing.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Silent prayer or time of sharing.

May we be reminded that in this earthly journey, Like Christ, we may need to make personal sacrifices for the good of all. Bring us together as one body, across our differences, to celebrate our shared values. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We commend to your mercy all innocent lives that have been taken, We pray that they rest with you now, at peace. We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom and feast at Christ's heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Silent prayer or time of sharing.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION	<i>"God Bless America"</i>	Brett Kendall, Bass
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* DOXOLOGY <i>(please rise as you are able)</i>	
<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	UMH #94

* CLOSING HYMN: <i>(please rise as you are able)</i>	
<i>"There is a Balm in Gilead"</i>	UMH #375

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:	<i>"Solemn Recessional"</i>	A. Campra
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** Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.*

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Victims, families, and communities affected by recent gun violence in America. Prayers for our military and families who have lost loved ones this Memorial Day. The Burns Family, family of Clyde Branson, Helga Ruttkamp, Adrian Philips, the family of Adrea C. Linder: Joseph, Joshua, and Hannah. Scott Davis, Cory Fish, Shela Waldron, family and friends of Mike Cruz, Lindsay Fauth, family of Christopher Juliano, Joan D, Gregory Carter, Kathy Whipps (Alison's mom), Walter, Doug, Jonathan, those struggling with mental health, Christine Zotti, Betty, Madison

Clyde Branson Passing

Dear UMC Summit Members and Friends,

It is with a heavy heart we share the news that long-time member Clyde Branson passed away on Friday, May 13. The details of the service are as follows:

Clyde Branson service:

June 11 at 1 pm at
Alexandria Presbyterian Church,
141 Little York Mr. Pleasant Rd
Milford, NJ. 08848

In lieu of flowers and in the spirit of the ways in which Clyde taught us all the importance of giving, please donate to the charity of your choice.

Smile! You May Be on Camera!

Our Sunday morning worship services are live streamed each week. We understand that some folks may not be comfortable being on camera. There are some moments during the worship service where congregation members may be seen on camera and if you are not comfortable being seen on the live stream we suggest you DO NOT sit in the first three rows of the sanctuary. If you would like to speak further with someone about making sure you are not on camera, please speak with Pastor Laura: pastor@umcsummit.org.

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday, May 29:

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

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day – Office is Closed

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

Tuesday, May 31:

9:30-12:15pm	Music Together (Social Hall)
1:00-9:30pm	Debbi's Dance School (Dance Studio)
7:30-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Wednesday, June 1:

1:00-9:30pm	Debbi's Dance School (Dance Studio)
7:30-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)
7:30-9:30pm	Toastmasters (Social Hall)

Thursday, June 2:

3:30-9:00pm	Debbi's Dance School (Dance Studio)
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Friday, June 3:

9:30-12:15pm	Music Together (Social Hall)
7:30-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Saturday, June 4:

8:00am – 2:30pm	Debbi's Dance School (Dance Studio)
9:30am -11:15am	Music Together (Playground)
11:30am	Wesley Singers
2:00-9:30pm	EMC Shalom International (Fellowship Room)

Join Our Music Ministries!

Chancel Choir:

It's a joy to work together and lift our voices in praise of our Maker. Our Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:30am each Sunday in the Sanctuary.

Wesley Singers:

Children and youth sing songs of faith and share their gifts of music on Saturday morning at 11:30am in our Sanctuary. Make a joyful sound to the Lord.

Bell Choir:

Our Bell choir rings joyous music of faith. Rehearsals are Sundays at 11:30am 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 are on Sundays at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries:

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

9:30AM-11:30AM Nursery Care Available in the Nursery

9:30AM-10:15AM: Christian Drama Club for ages K-12th grade (Green Room, 2nd floor)

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.

Youth Group every first Sunday of the month, 6PM-8PM

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gift Cards Needed:

For our May Family Promise virtual hosting week, we are collecting \$25 Shoprite gift cards for 6 families

Please drop off cards or a designated donation at the church office or into the offering plate. If you purchase online you can have them mailed to the church office for \$2 (go to www.shoprite.com/giftcards).

Family Promise Training:

Family Promise-Union County is offering a workshop titled, "Living with Loss, Healing from Homelessness" on June 4, 2022 from 10am-12pm at FUMC Westfield ([1 E. Broad St., Westfield](#)). Connie Palmer, Grief Educator from Imagine will lead the workshop, which is designed to help you identify with the feelings of grief and loss associated with homelessness that our guests experience. Register today: <https://forms.office.com/r/5BhZURhUvK>

Summit's Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 30

Summit civic and school groups are encouraged to participate and march along with veterans. Line up for the parade begins at 9:30 AM and departs 25 DeForest Ave at 10 AM for the Village Green. Spectators are encouraged to gather on DeForest Avenue, Beechwood Road, Union Place and along Maple Street to the Village Green.



Education Sunday:

Join us Sunday, **June 5**, as we celebrate Education Sunday. We will award our Wyckoff and Welsh Scholarships to our graduating seniors as well as celebrate our youngest disciples as they finish out an incredible year of Sunday

School and Youth Group. **Parents of Graduates:** If you'd like to lift up your graduate on Education Sunday please let the church office know. Pastor Laura will be saying a special prayer to all graduates that Sunday. Email: Office@umcsummit.org to list your graduate!

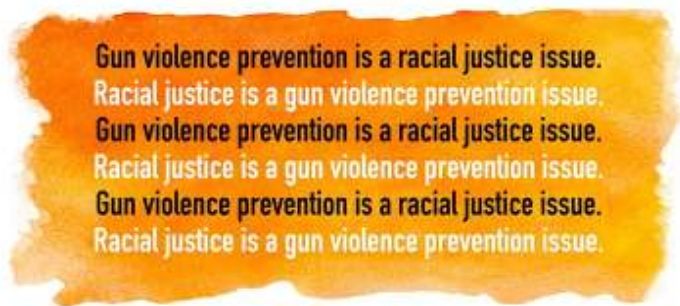
Celebration Potluck Picnic June 5th:

Join us after church on June 5th, for a celebration picnic! We will celebrate a great year in ministry as well as honor our church's Office Administrator Polly del Campo for her many years of service. Please bring a nut-free dish to share. A sign-up sheet is in the Social Hall, please list what you will bring.



Bike, Walk, or Take Mass Transit to Church Sunday June 5, 2022

Join us as we live out our call to creation care by biking, walking, or taking mass transit to church on June 5th. Please park bikes in the Social Hall.



WEAR ORANGE



Summit Marches on Gun Violence:

June 4, 5:00-6:00pm

Summit Green

Join us as we rally to pass Governor Murphy's Gun Safety Package 3.0. Learn how gun violence continues to be an issue of social and racial

justice, and focus on how we as a community can make a difference.

Event co-sponsors include BRADY, Moms Demand Action, Ceasefire NJ, The National Council of Jewish Woman, Union County Democrats, Summit Interfaith Council, Action Together NJ, Summit Municipal Democrats, Summit Area Indivisible, Westfield 2020, Students Demand Action, and more!

Masking in Worship

Currently, masking in church is **optional**. Please note that COVID19 levels of transmission are rising in our area. As of Friday, May 20th, Union county is in the "medium" level of community transmission and Morris County is in the "high" level of transmission. For medium level the CDC recommends those at high risk for serious infection DO mask indoors. If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness we encourage you to stay home and worship with us online.



Youth Group Announcements:

Get The Scoop on College Readiness...

June 5th, 6pm-8

Come share a tasty treat and engage in some food for thought to consider over your summer. Bring your favorite snack/side dish to share and fellowship with neighboring Youth Group navigating this critical age and stage of their academic careers.



IGNITE YOUTH Conference

Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2, 2022

Wildwood, NJ

This event is open to all students grades 6-12 along with their fearless leaders! A high-impact, life-changing weekend for young people! High energy worship with powerful worship bands. A relevant, engaging message from nationally known speakers. Interactive and inspiring workshops led by dynamic professionals. Spiritual growth alongside 2,000 young people from around the region.

Mark your calendars, save the date, fill out your permission slips in order to register ahead.

Contact: CYFMinister@umcsummit.org