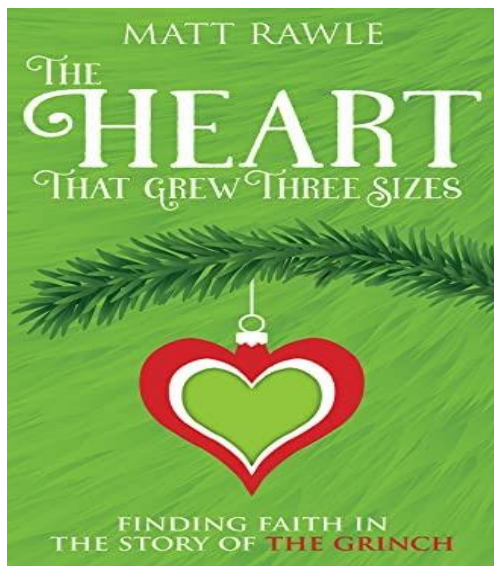




United Methodist  
Church of Summit



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Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele

Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak

Children, Youth, Family Minister: Natalie Palacio

Facilities Manager: Geraldo Rivera

**December 18, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent: LOVE**

**Worship Series: “The Heart That Grew Three Sizes”**

*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 “Be Thou With Us”*

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**     The Edwards Family

**Reader One:** On the first Sunday in Advent, we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ; the second Sunday we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God’s dream of a peaceful world; and last week we lit the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy to the world.

*(Light three candles)*

**Reader Two:** Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. Scripture tells us “There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18). God created the world in love, saved us through the gift of perfect love in Christ, and will come again in the name of that divine love.

**Reader One:** Today, we light this candle in honor of God’s unconditional Love. On this day we remember God is Love.

*(Light fourth candle)*

**HYMN:**

*Advent Song (vv.1, 2, 3, 4)*

TFWS #2090

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beverly Alexis

*(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: In the midst of darkness, God brings light.

**People: Thanks be to the God of light.**

Leader: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.

**People: Thanks be to the God of hope and peace.**

Leader: In the midst of conflict and stress, God brings comfort and love.

**People: Let us praise the God of love who brings us new life.**

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

Beverly Alexis

**Almighty God, Light of the World, you brought a great light to shine in the darkness. Through the advent; the arrival of Jesus Christ, you remind us of the ways we are to prepare to experience and share your unconditional love with the world. We admit we have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We pray this day that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may grow to glorify your love with acts of compassion and service. In our Savior's name we pray, Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH#211

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Natalie Palacio

**ANTHEM:**

*"Sing We Now of Christmas"*

arr Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Alison Johnson

**SCRIPTURE:**

Beverly Alexis

**Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-14 (NRSV)**

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

**New Testament: Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)**

**The Birth of Jesus the Messiah**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in

her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:**

*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine*

TFWF # 2099

**SERMON:** *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes.*

Rev. Laura Steele

**OFFERING**

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION** *“Variations on “Manger Songs”*

**\*DOXOLOGY** *(please rise as you are able)*

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH #94

**CLOSING HYMN:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH #234

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Voluntary on *“O, Friends, in Gladness Let Us Sing”*

*\* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able*

*Please join us after service for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall.*

*Nursery CLOSED today, we are sorry for any inconvenience.*

**In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

Gun violence in America, The Weaver Family, Rikki, Bob Reed, Christina, Family of Marlene Frere, Dottie Zottie, Warren Pierce, Jamie Noonan, K.S., Norma, The Miles Family, Bertha, Mervin The Boggan Family, Jerry Gaston, the people of Ukraine, family of Clyde Branson, Helga Ruttkamp, D, Gregory Carter, Kathy Whipps, Walter, Doug, Jonathan, those struggling with mental health, Christine Zotti, Betty, Madi, Mrs. Judith Ventura, Christina Teubner Donett, Family of Brook Lewis.

## **This Week's Schedule**

### **Sunday, December 18:**

9:00am-9:30am	Instrumentals (Sanctuary)
9:30am-10:00am	Chancel Choir (Chapel)
10:00am-10:30am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
9:30am-10:00am	Drama Club (Sanctuary) Rehearsal
10:30am-11:30am	In-person/online Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45am-11:45am	Sunday School (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Educational Building)
11:30am	Singing Believers (Sanctuary)
11:40am	Bell Choir (Sanctuary)
12:00pm	Contemporary Ensemble (Sanctuary)
2:15pm	Chancel Choir with Germania Mixed Chorus
3:00pm-4:00pm	Christmas Concert
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Monday, December 19:**

9:00am-5:30pm	Brain Train Learning Center (Classroom #2)
9:30am-11:30am	Alison Johnson Party (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Contemporary Worship Rehearsal (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)
7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room)

### **Tuesday, December 20:**

9:00am-5:30pm	Brain Train Learning Center (Classroom #2)
9:15am-10:15am	Baby Bandstand (Social Hall & Playground)
7:00pm-8:00pm	Adult Sunday School (Fellowship Room)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Wednesday December 21:**

9:00am-5:30pm	Brain Train Learning Center (Classroom #2)
7:00pm-8:00pm	Blue Christmas Service (Chapel)
7:15pm-9:15pm	Toastmasters (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Thursday, December 22:**

9:00am-5:30pm	Brain Train Learning Center (Classroom #2)
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### **Friday, December 23:**

9:00am-5:30pm	Brain Train Learning Center (Classroom #2)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Saturday, December 24:**

4:30pm	Singing Believers
5:00pm-6:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship
8:30pm	Chancel Choir
9:00pm-10:00pm	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join us for **Christmas Eve Services at 5PM and 9PM** on December 24th. Our 5PM service is family friendly with your favorite Christmas Carols, our Annual Children's Christmas Pageant, and a child-friendly candle lighting at the end. Our 9PM service is more traditional with Lessons and Carols and closing with candle lighting to the hymn "Silent Night". All are welcome!

### Angel Tree Christmas Mission

Incarceration can strain family ties to the breaking point. By providing Christmas gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree allows local congregations to extend the hope of the Gospel to families with loved ones in prison. This season Summit UMC has committed to sponsoring 40 children. Will you help us sponsor one of these children this Christmas? Grab a tag or visit our website at: [www.umcsummit.org](http://www.umcsummit.org) to sponsor a child today!



### Open Call!!!

#### Children's Christmas Pageant

The Christian Drama Club kids are rehearsing for their Christmas Pageant. Join us on Sundays at 9:30am to be a take part in this performance during our Family Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00pm.



### **Blue Christmas Service**

**Wednesday, December 21st 7:00pm**

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 **Wednesday, 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.



### **Christian Drama Club Rehearsals**

**9:30am in Church Sanctuary**

**& 3:30pm Christmas Eve**

For the next Sunday the kids are rehearsing for their Christmas Pageant in the Church Sanctuary. We will also be holding rehearsal at 3:30pm prior to our Christmas Eve service. Join us to be a take part in this performance during our Family Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00pm.



### **Christmas Morning Service**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am**

Join us Christmas morning as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Come in your Christmas jammies or dressed to the nines! We will sing our favorite Christmas Carols and have cookies and hot chocolate after service.



United Methodist  
Church of Summit

# Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 18th at 3.00pm

*Featuring the choirs of the church  
& professional soloists*



**Free and open to all.** Donations are welcome.

17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ.