



The United Methodist Church of Summit  
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[www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchofSummit](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchofSummit)

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

**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Questions to God Series**

*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 "Amazing Grace"*

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Johanna Aguilera

*(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: We wonder—who is God?

**People: We wonder—where is God?**

Leader: We wonder—how do we reach God?

**People: We wonder---How do we learn about God?**

Leader: The Wisdom of the Holy Spirit is upon us!

**People: Lord guide us now!**

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

Johanna Aguilera

Compassionate God, in your unfailing love, you sent us your Son as the savior of the world so that we might live through him. And you have invited us to love one another as you first loved us. As we enter into this season of repentance, we confess that we have failed to accept your invitation. Too often, our fears over our personal safety, financial security, and social status prevent us from truly following Jesus. Forgive us, O Lord, for our meekness. Through your Holy Spirit, give us the boldness to receive and abide in your perfect love. May we embody your loving presence in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

UMH #384

*(please remain standing as you are able)*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Natalie Palacio, CYF Minister

**ANTHEM**

*"It Is Well with My Soul"*

John Beck

Chancel Choir

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Laura Steele

**SCRIPTURE:**

**Old Testament: Psalm 32 (NRSV)**

Johanna Aguilera

The Joy of Forgiveness

Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah* Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**New Testament: 1 John 4:7-19 (NRSV)**

Johanna Aguilera

**God Is Love**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God; People: Thanks be to God!*

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:**

*"Lamb of God"*

TFWS #2113

**SERMON:**

*"Who is God?"*

Rev. Laura Steele

**OFFERING**

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**

*Voluntary on "Near to the Heart of God"*  
William Teubner, Trumpet

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

UMH #95

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

*"Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love"*

UMH #566

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit as you are able  
Please join us after service for refreshments in the Social Hall.*

### **In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

Malik Hall, Susan Williams, Andy Menendez, Lisa Wood, Mike (MaryEllen DeJohn's brother), Linda Dawson, Carmel Christensen, John Jennings, Chris Zotti and son Jack, gun violence in America, Bob Reed.

### **This Week's Schedule**

#### **Sunday, February 26:**

9:00am-9:30am Instrumentalists (Sanctuary)  
9:30am – 10:20am Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)  
9:30am-10:30am Drama Club (Green Room)  
10:30am-11:30am In-person/online Worship (Sanctuary)  
10:45am-11:30am Children's Sunday School (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Education)  
11:30am-12:30pm Coffee Hour (Social Hall)  
11:30am-12:00pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary)  
12:10pm-12:30pm Singing Believers (Chapel)  
12:30pm -1:00pm Contemporary Ensemble (Chapel)  
5:00pm-6:30pm Johanna Pickle Ball (Social Hall)  
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

#### **Monday, February 27:**

7:00pm-9:00pm Contemporary Worship Rehearsal (Social Hall)  
7:45pm-9:30pm Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room and Chapel)

#### **Tuesday, February 28:**

9:30am-10:30am Baby Bandstand (Social Hall)  
1:00pm-9:30pm Debbi's Dance (Dance Studio)  
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

#### **Wednesday March 1:**

1:00pm-9:30pm Debbie's Dance (Dance Studio)  
7:15pm-9:15pm Toastmasters (Social Hall)  
6:30-7:30pm Soup Supper and Dinner Church (Social Hall)

#### **Thursday, March 2:**

3:30pm-9:00pm Debbi's Dance (Dance Studio)  
7:00pm-8:00pm Contemporary Worship Service (Social Hall)

#### **Friday, March 3:**

9:00am-12:00pm Music Together (Social Hall)  
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

#### **Saturday, March 4:**

8:00am-3:30pm Debbi's Dance (Dance Studio)  
9:00am-12:00pm Music Together (Social Hall)  
11:30am-12:00pm Wesley Choir (Chapel)  
12:00pm-1:00pm Chancel Choir (Chapel)  
1:00pm-2:30pm Instrumental (Sanctuary)  
2:00pm – 10:00pm EMC Shalom (Fellowship Room)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **29 Ways United Methodists Can Participate in Black History Month**

Black History Month celebrates the unique contributions of African Americans to the American history. Whatever your heritage or background, black history is part of everyone's history. The UM Commission on Religion and Race has compiled 29 suggestions to help United Methodists celebrate Black History Month during this leap year. Please check out our February Newsletter or visit: <https://www.r2hub.org/>

**Lent Worship Series: Questions to God** Who is God? Why do bad things happen to good people? How can I face the future? Having doubts is part of the human experience. Join us this Lent as we practice bringing some of our biggest questions and doubts to God.



### **Youth Group Meeting "Rebel Revolt Escape Room"**

**Sunday, March 5**

**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Join the Meadowlands Youth Collective as we challenge you to an Escape Room! All youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome! @United Methodist Church of Union: 2095 Berwyn St, Union, NJ 07083



**Lent Soup Suppers and Dinner Church**  
**Wednesdays March 1<sup>st</sup>-March 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30PM**

Join us this Lenten season as we try something new! This year we will combine our Lenten Soup Suppers and Services for an interactive Dinner Church experience. If you are willing to provide a simple soup supper on one of the Wednesday nights, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall. A special "thank you" to all of our "Soup Chefs" past and present!



**Easter Egg Hunt Candy/Toy Drive**  
**Now-Sunday, March 15th**

Our Easter Egg Hunt is early this year slated for Saturday, April 1st. We are hosting our Easter Candy Collection. We will be happy to receive a donation of every size. You can donate online or by bringing donations to the church. Small candy (nut-free and individually wrapped) or small toys/stickers are gladly appreciated! Thank you in advance for helping us in reaching the community outside our church walls. If you have any questions please see Natalie Palacio or email: [CYFMinister@umcsummit.org](mailto:CYFMinister@umcsummit.org).



**Volunteers Needed**  
**For the Reeves Memorial Garden**

It's time for Reeves Memorial Garden maintenance! Your help is needed on Monday, March 6 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The end time is flexible depending on the work and number of volunteers.



*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity as you follow Jesus Christ, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"*  
*Romans 15:5*

Yes, with one heart and voice let us share our gifts of music in praise.

**Chancel Choir:**

It's a joy to work together and lift our voices in praise. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Saturdays at 12:00pm and on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Both rehearsals are in the chapel. Come and share your voice with your church friends to sing God's praises.

**Calling all Children and Youth!**

Our Wesley Choir rehearses on Saturday mornings at 11:30am in the chapel.

**Our Singing Believers** rehearse on Sundays at 12:10pm in the chapel, following coffee hour. Let us grow together through the songs of the church.

**Bell Choir:**

Making a joyful sound is the mission of our Bell Choir. Now is a wonderful time to come and ring Hand Bells and Hand Chimes with your church friends. Rehearsals are on Sunday's following worship in the Sanctuary. Please come right over to the Bell tables and Debbie will have coffee hour waiting for us after rehearsal. Please come and join with your church friends this Sunday to ring bells.

**Contemporary Ensemble:**

Our Contemporary Ensemble shares music for Holy Communion each month. Come and share your gifts of singing and instruments. Rehearsals are on Sundays at 12:30pm in the chapel. Come and share your musical gift and enrich your faith. Looking forward to Praising God together.

With much love,  
JoAnne Teubner Prussak  
Director of Music