



The 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

March 12th, 2023
Third 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 Eagles' Wings" for Trumpet and Organ

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Emily LaJeunesse

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: We worship the Lord with gladness;

Leader: Come before the Lord with joyful songs,

People: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise!

People: The Lord is good and his love endures forever!

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

Emily LaJeunesse

Creator God, we know that we are to enter your gates with thanksgiving, joining with all the earth in shouting for joy and worshiping you with gladness. Yet, we confess that too often we forget it is you who brought us into life and you who continue to sustain us with your goodness. Remind us that we are to be found praising you together with our siblings in Christ as the flock, the sheep of your pasture. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:**

"We Are the Church" (vv. 1-4)

UMH #558

(please remain standing as you are able)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Natalie Palacio, CYF Minister

ANTHEM

"God Is Our Refuge and Strength"
Chancel Choir

Mark Hayes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Beverly Alexis

SCRIPTURE:

Emily LaJeunesse

Old Testament: Psalm 100 (NIV)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

New Testament: Romans 5:1-11 (NRSV)

Results of Justification

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God;*

People: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:**

"Bind Us Together" (sung 3x)

TFWS #2226

SERMON:

"Why Should I Go to Church?"

Rev. Laura Steele

OFFERING

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

William Teubner, Trumpet

***DOXOLOGY**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #95

***CLOSING HYMN:**

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

TFWS #2223

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Recessional in F Major"

**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

The Miles family, the Menendez and Aguilera family, Lisa Wood, Mike (MaryEllen DeJohn's brother), Linda Dawson, Carmel Christensen, John Jennings, Chris Zotti and son Jack, gun violence in America, Bob Reed.



Lent Soup Suppers and Dinner Church Wednesdays March 1st-March 29th, 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

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, March 12:

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

Monday, March 13:

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

Tuesday, March 14:

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 15:

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

Thursday, March 16:

3:30pm-9:00pm	Debbi's 'Dance (Dance Studio)
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Friday, March 17:

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

Saturday, March 18:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

**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.

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Saturday, April 1st, 2023 1:00PM**

Games, Prizes, and Photos with the Easter Bunny! Join us once again as we host our Community Easter Egg Hunt! Pre-registration is suggested. Please see CYF Minister, Natalie Palacio, for more information. Email: CYFMinister@umcsummit.org

Donations for Jefferson School Easter Baskets

Our partnership with Jefferson Elementary School continues this year as we seek to arrange Easter dinners for 10 families in need. *Please help fill these baskets by donating food. A sign-up sheet is available in the Social Hall for your convenience.*



All Easter dinner donations will be gathered by March 26, and delivered to and distributed by Jefferson School. We will also accept financial donations to give funds that will be transformed into food and gift cards for the families. **All financial donations are needed by March 19**, and can be made by sending in a check with "Jefferson School" in the memo line or by selecting "Jefferson School Easter Baskets" from the fund menu on our [online giving page](#).



Gift Card Drive for Family Promise! The UMC of Summit will be virtually hosting Family Promise families the week of March 12th-19th. The SUMC Outreach Team is asking for your help in collecting Shop Rite Gift Cards in increments of \$25 and \$50. Please drop gift cards off Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm, or Sunday mornings during worship.

Garden Volunteers Needed! Sat. April 15th 9AM-12PM

Calling all hands on deck! We need your help to spruce up the Reeves Memorial Garden for its Spring bloom! Please join us on Saturday, April 15th, from 9am-12pm.





"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 begin our new season.

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 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