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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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Second 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**

*Variations on the tune "Balm in Gilead"*

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Susan Woolever

*(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: Open your hearts to God's Word.

**People: In the midst of winter darkness, we seek the brightness of God's love.**

Leader: Do not be afraid for God is with you.

**People: The Lord is our light and our salvation.**

Leader: Through the guidance of Holy Scripture, we find the Living Word, Jesus Christ.

**People: The light and love of God is constant. Praise be to God! AMEN.**

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

Susan Woolever

**God of Light, we stand before you this day with the secret intentions of our hearts laid bare for you to see. We confess that instead of allowing your Word to actively shape and transform our lives, we manipulate it to suit our own personal needs. Fill our hearts with your grace and mercy we pray. O Lord, forgive us of our wayward actions and attitudes. Free us this hour so that your Holy Word can lead us into a life of true discipleship. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

UMH #140

*(please remain standing as you are able)*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Rev. Laura Steele

**ANTHEM**

*"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"*

Charles Gabriel

Chancel Choir

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Carol Conway

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Susan Woolever

**Old Testament: Psalm 121 (NRSV)**

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

**New Testament: Hebrews 4:12-14 (CEV)**

God's word is alive and powerful! It is sharper than any double-edged sword. His word can cut through our spirits and souls and through our joints and marrow, until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts. Nothing is hidden from God! He sees through everything, and we will have to tell him the truth. We have a great high priest, who has gone into heaven, and he is Jesus the Son of God. This is why we must hold on to what we have said about him. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God;* **People: Thanks be to God!**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *"Thy Word Is a Lamp"* UMH #601

**SERMON:** *"Is the Bible Reliable?"* Rev. Laura Steele

**OFFERING**

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION** *Voluntary on "Blessed Assurance"*  
William Teubner, Trumpet

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

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** UMH p.13  
*"We Pray for Communion"*  
Contemporary Ensemble

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** *"I Love to Tell the Story"* UMH #156

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *"Majestic Recessional in A 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**

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.



### **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!

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

#### **Sunday, March 5:**

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)
12:00pm-12:20pm	Singing Believers (Chapel)
12:20pm -1:00pm	Contemporary Ensemble (Chapel)
5:00pm -5:45pm	Confirmation Class (Library)
5:00pm-6:30pm	Johanna Pickle Ball (Social Hall)
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Youth Group (Union UMC)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

#### **Monday, March 6:**

9:30am -12:30pm	Reeves Memorial Garden Clean-up
7:00pm-9:00pm	Contemporary Worship Rehearsal (Social Hall)
7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room and Chapel)

#### **Tuesday, March 7:**

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 8:**

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 9:**

3:00pm-5:00pm	Girl Scouts (Social Hall)
3:30pm-9:00pm	Debbi's 'Dance (Dance Studio)

**Friday, March 10:**

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

**Saturday, March 11:**

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

**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.

**Volunteers Needed  
for the Reeves Memorial Garden**

Your help is needed on Monday, March 6 from 9:30 to 12:30pm. The end time is flexible depending on the work and number of volunteers.

**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).

**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



### Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto: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.



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

Our Singing Believers rehearse on Sundays at 12:00pm 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 12:20pm 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