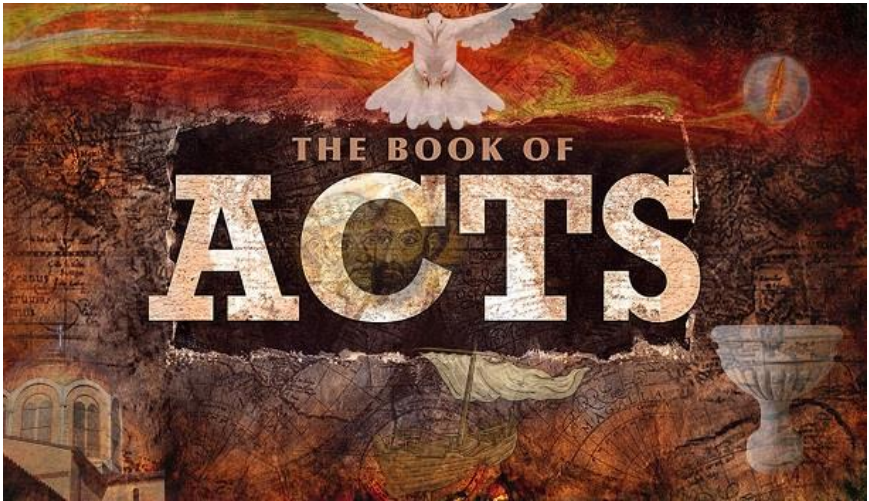




United Methodist  
Church of Summit



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Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele  
Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak  
Facilities Manager: Geraldo Rivera  
Office Manager: Joey Bustillos

**July 16th, 2023**  
**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Acts Worship Series: Week Four**

*Welcome to the United Methodist Church of Summit! We invite you to join us on a journey of faith, worshiping and serving God.*

**PRELUDE**                      *“Be Thou With Us”*                      for Trumpet and Organ

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

*(if you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of July please come forward)*

**PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Beverly Alexis

*(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: There are times in our lives when following Christ seems almost too difficult.

**People: Yet He has promised to be with us, guiding and supporting us.**

Leader: Our fears and doubts crowd out God's call.

**People: Lord, come to us and lead us. Embolden us with your Spirit.**

Leader: Lord, take our hands and walk with us.

**People: Bring the brightness of your love to us.**

Leader: Help us see your face, O Lord.

**People: For we are ready to receive your healing love.**

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

Beverly Alexis

**We gather this day, O Lord, as people who seek your guiding love. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. Open our hearts and make us ready to stand firm in the faith that leads to loving service. Pour your Spirit out in this place so that your love may surround all who enter here. All these things we pray in Jesus' name, AMEN.**

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

*"Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"*

UMH #596

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Rev. Laura Steele

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Alison Johnson

**SCRIPTURE:**

Beverly Alexis

**Old Testament: Psalm 2 (NRSV)**

God's Promise to His Anointed

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast their cords from us."

**New Testament: Acts 4:23-31 (NRSV)**

The Believers Pray for Boldness

After they were released, they went to their own people and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant: 'Why did the gentiles rage and the peoples imagine vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers have gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.' "For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

*This is the Word of God, for the people of God;*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

*"Seek Ye First"*

UMH#405

**SERMON:** *Acts Week Four: Phone a Friend*

Rev. Laura Steele

**OFFERING**

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**

Voluntary on *"Be Thou My Vision"*

William Teubner, Trumpet

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

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

UMH #94

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** *(please rise as you are able)*

*"Thy Word is a Lamp"*

UMH#601

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *"Recessional in D Major"*

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

*Please join us after service for our end of year picnic!*

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

Oscar Gonzalez, Dillan, Anabelle, Guy Brasteid, Family of Betty Zabucky, family of Norma Dowe, the Hasem family, Tamisha Ramsay, Janet Skakum, Jessica, the Miles family, the Menendez and Aguilera family, Lisa Wood, Mike (MaryEllen DeJohn's brother), family of Linda Dawson, Carmel Christensen, John Jennings, Chris Zotti and son Jack, gun violence in America and Bob Reed

## **This Week's Schedule**

### **Sunday, July 16:**

9:30am-10:00am Instrumentalists (Sanctuary)  
10:00am-10:30am Summer Choir (Sanctuary)  
10:30am-11:30am In-person/online Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:30am-12:30pm Coffee Hour (Social Hall)  
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Monday, July 17:**

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

### **Tuesday, July 18:**

9:00am-3:00pm Debbi's Dance (Dance Studio)  
9:30am-10:30am Baby Bandstand(Social Hall)  
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Wednesday, July 19:**

7:15pm-9:15pm Toastmasters (Social Hall)

### **Friday, July 21:**

9:00am-12:00pm Music Together (Social Hall)  
11:00am-12:00pm Christian Yoga (Chapel)  
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Saturday, July 22:**

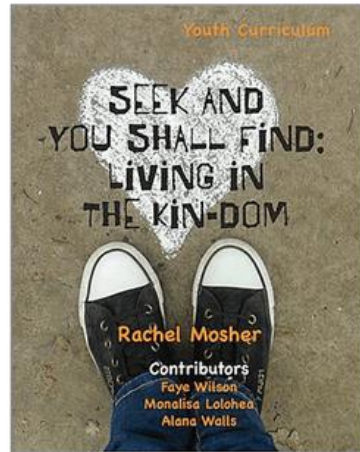
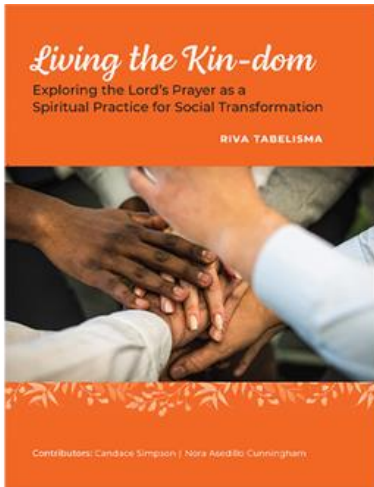
9:00am-12:00pm Music Together (Chapel)  
11:00am-12:00pm Music Committee(  
12:00pm-2:00pm Instrumental Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
2:00pm-11:00pm EMC Shalom (Fellowship Room)



## **Children, Youth, and Families Update**

Please note the Nursery, Sunday School, and Youth Group programming will be taking a break for the summer. Children are invited to remain in worship and praise God together.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Mission U to explore Living the Kin-dom

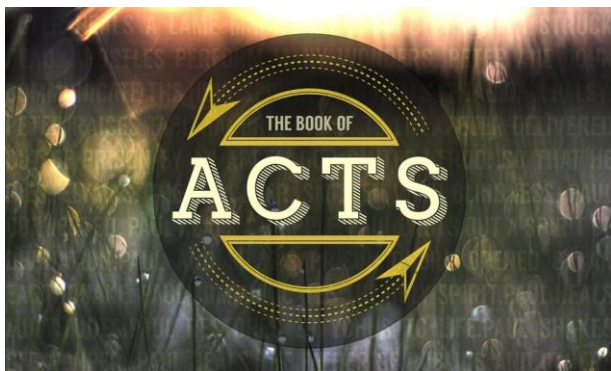
**GNJ's United Women in Faith (UWF)** will offer Mission U in two sessions during July—first onsite and then online. With the theme “Living the Kin-dom,” attendees will study the Lord's Prayer using the original Aramaic words of Jesus and discover a fresh vision for those seeking to be in mission today. The sessions will be held in-person July 14-15, at Centenary University's Lackland Center in Hackettstown, and then virtually via Zoom July 21-22. Visit the <https://gnjumw.org> to learn more.

# YOGAFAITH

## New! Christian Yoga Classes Fridays @ 11AM

Join us Friday mornings at 11AM as Pastor Laura leads a new, Christian Yoga class in the Chapel. All levels are welcome, no previous experience necessary. Suggested donation of \$10 per class. Please see Pastor Laura for more information or email:

[pastor@umcsummit.org](mailto:pastor@umcsummit.org)



## **Summer Worship Series: The Book of Acts** **June 25<sup>th</sup> – August 27<sup>th</sup>**

The combination of God's purpose, power, and presence is vital to our life as a church. Throughout the New Testament Book of Acts, we find the themes of mission, prayer, discipleship, and evangelism that help us to wrap our minds around a larger expression of God's mission here on earth. We see how the Holy Spirit empowers the early church to overcome hard times, persecution, turmoil, and pressure. How can we, as the church, live into the pressures of our times using the example of the Apostles? Join us this summer as we explore the world of the Book of Acts.



### **Book of Acts Summer Reading Challenge!**

This summer, Pastor Laura is challenging the congregation to read through the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts has 28 chapters, and with 14 weeks until

Labor Day, your challenge is to read two chapters a week.

### **Green Team Update**

Good News! In order to reduce waste The Green Team will begin providing reusable coffee mugs and drinking glasses during coffee hour effective July 2nd. Please consider helping us improve our environmental stewardship, one coffee cup at a time.







## School Supply Drive June 11<sup>th</sup>-August 20<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Jersey Cares School Supply Drive begins next Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Each year, thousands of New Jersey children attend their first day of school without basic educational tools such as

backpacks, notebooks, and calculators. These under-resourced children struggle to succeed academically. Jersey Cares works with dozens of schools, children's shelters, and community centers with the goal that no children in New Jersey will have to experience a first day of school without these basic necessities. With your help we can bridge the gap between disadvantage and academic success.

Items ACCEPTED for the School Supply Drive include:

Backpacks (may be new OR gently used), 1, 3, and 5 Subject Notebooks, Composition Notebooks, 2-Pocket Folders, Pencil Cases, #2 Pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Erasers, Pens, Hi-lighters Crayons, Washable Markers, and Colored Pencils, Book Covers, Calculators, Child Safety Scissors, Glue, Rulers (12"), Headphones, Visa or Amazon Gift Cards. Please bring in items and place them in the bins at the back and/or front of the sanctuary. Or, you can drop off/send items to the church office Monday-Friday from 9AM-1PM.



Please note our Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir, and Contemporary Ensembles will be taking a break for summer. Check back in September for upcoming schedules. If you're interested in joining our informal Summer Choir, please see Director of Music Joanne Teubner-Prussak. This choir rehearses at 10AM each Sunday during the summer months.