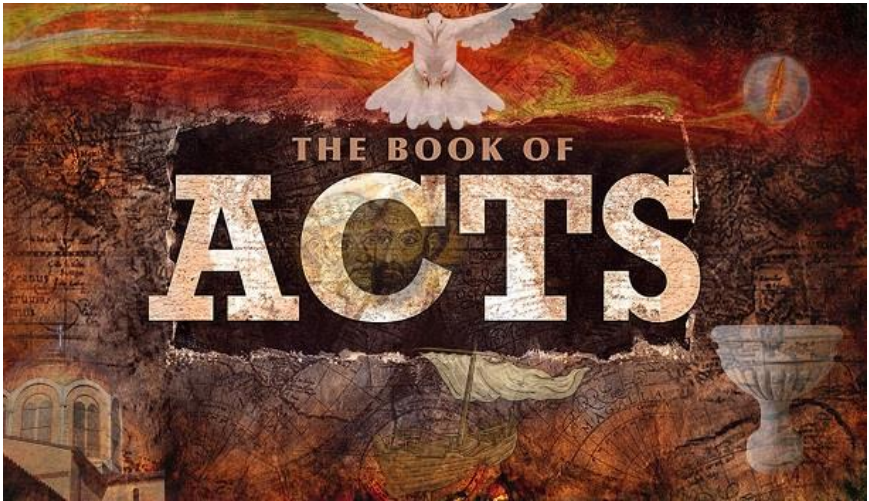




United Methodist
Church of Summit



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

July 23rd, 2023
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
Acts Worship Series: Week Five

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

PRELUDE *"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"*
for Trumpet and Organ

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** Bill Glancy
(please rise as you are able)

Leader: Come, give thanks to the Lord with all your heart
and soul!

**People: We rejoice over God's many blessings poured
out upon us!**

Leader: We celebrate God's grace this day!

**People: With praise and thanksgiving let us worship
God!**

***CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)* Bill Glancy
Lord of life and hope, we gather this day seeking
nourishment for our souls and healing for our spirits.
Give us strength and courage, so that we may be
witnesses to your transforming love. Through the
ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, the Truth, the Life,
and the Way; we offer this prayer. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN:** *(please remain standing as you are able)*
"Blessed Assurance" UMH #369

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Laura Steele

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Laura Steele

Old Testament: Isaiah 53:1-7 (NRSV)

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity, and as one from whom others hide their faces. He was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

New Testament: Acts 6:8-15 (NRSV)

The Arrest of Stephen
Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him

say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. *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)*

“Grace Alone”

TFWS#2162

SERMON: *Acts Week Five: Full of Grace and Power*

Rev. Laura Steele

OFFERING

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Voluntary on *“God of Grace and God of Glory”*

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)*

“God Be with You till We Meet Again”

UMH#601

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *“Majestic Recessional in A 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 Zabrocky, family of Norma Dowe, the Hasem family, Tamisha Ramsay, Janet Skakum, Jessica, the Miles family, the Menendez and Aguilera family, Mike (MaryEllen DeJohn’s brother), Carmel Christensen, John Jennings, Chris Zotti and son Jack, gun violence in America and Bob Reed

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, July 23:

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 24:

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

Tuesday, July 25:

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 26:

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

Friday, July 27:

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

Saturday, July 28:

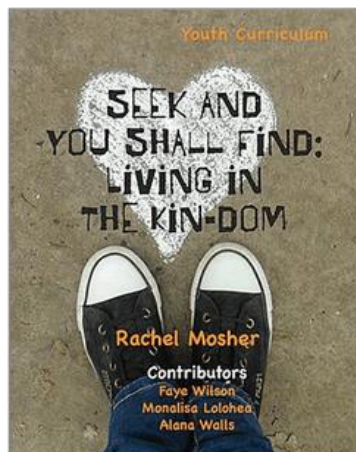
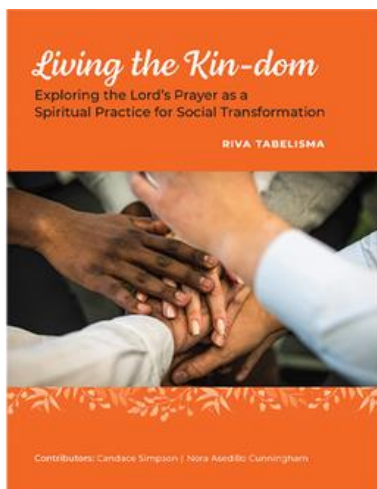
9:00am-12:00pm Music Together (Chapel)
12:00pm-2:00pm Instrumental Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
2:00pm-11:00pm EMC Shalom (Fellowship Room)



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

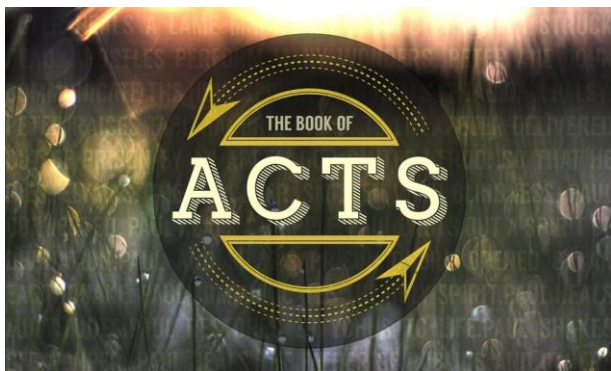
GNJ's United Women in Faith (UWF) will offer Mission U in two sessions during July—first onsite and then online. With the theme “Living the Kin-dom,” attendees will study the Lord's Prayer using the original Aramaic words of Jesus and discover a fresh vision for those seeking to be in mission today. 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



Summer Worship Series: The Book of Acts **June 25th – August 27th**

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 11th-August 20th

Our annual Jersey Cares School Supply Drive begins next Sunday, June 11th. 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.