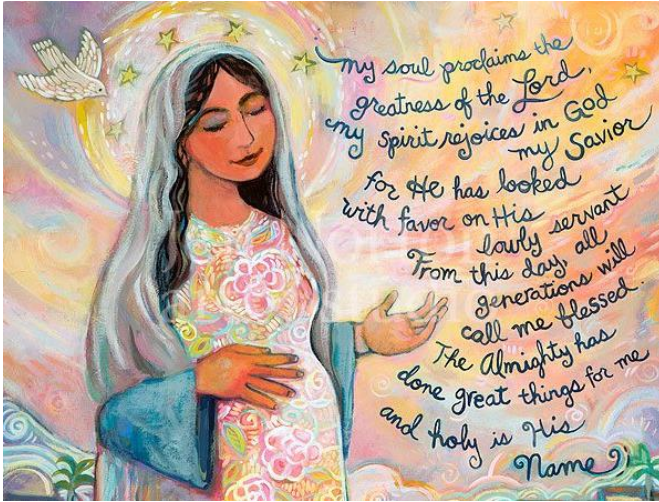




# United Methodist Church of Summit



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

Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele  
Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak  
Children, Youth, and Families Minister: Carrie-Lee Farnham  
Facilities Manager: Geraldo Rivera  
Office Manager: Joey Bustillos  
Seminary Intern: Dadi Hove

# **December 17th, 2023**

## **Third Sunday in Advent**

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

### **PRELUDE**

*“Andante in F Major”*  
Trumpet and Organ

G.F Handel

### **GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**    The Reyes Family

Reader 1: When God’s people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed: “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.”

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

**Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our lives as God’s people.**

Reader 3: We light these candles as signs of our hope, peace, joy, and love. May our lives shine with the joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom here on Earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*(Light four candles of the Advent wreath.)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Josh Reyes

*(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Joy and love are near.

**People: We wait in the transformative joy and love of the coming Messiah.**

Leader: Beloved Son, Prince of Peace, Lamb of God, Emmanuel; God preparing to walk with us.

**People: We long for the coming of the One who will transform the world, bringing joy where there is mourning, and love where there is hate.**

Leader: So let us join our voices together and live our lives in a way that magnifies the Lord!

**People: Our souls proclaim the arrival of the Joy and Love that transforms the world!**

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

Josh Reyes

**Lord of impending Light, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning as we gather to hear your word for us. AMEN.**

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

*"To A Maid Engaged to Joseph"*

UMH#215

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Carrie-Lee Farnham

**ANTHEM:**

*"A Midwinter Carol"*  
Chancel Choir

Victor Johnson

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Alison Johnson

**SCRIPTURE:**

Josh Reyes

**Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-2 (NRSV)**

The Good News of Deliverance

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

**New Testament: Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)**

Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his children, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

*This is the Word of God, for the people of God;***People: Thanks be to God.****\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:***"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"* TFWS#2098**SERMON:** *"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"* Rev. Laura Steele**OFFERING***(please place offering envelope in basket or text:**"dollar amount you wish to give" to 908-224-7670)*

## **MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**

Voluntary on "*O Little Town of Bethlehem*"

William Teubner, Trumpet

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

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

UMH #95

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

UMH#224 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"*

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

*Please join us after service for coffee, tea and refreshments in the  
Social Hall.*

## **In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

Boden, Bob Z., Veronica S., Zandie S., Chris and Dot C., Rachel Calman and the Calman-Beland family, Caroline Kenny, Rick Picorale, Brandon Gomes and family, Adrian, Ricky for a new heart, Neil with pneumonia, Irma, Victims of violence in the Middle East and around the world, Millie, Family and friends of Janet Skakum, David Griffith, Pauline Griffith, Kaye Griffith, The Rivera family, Irma George, Oscar Gonzalez, Dillan, Anabelle, Guy Brasteid

## **This Week's Schedule**

### **Sunday, December 17:**

9:30am-10:00am	Instrumentalists (Sanctuary)
10:00am-10:15am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
9:30am-10:15am	Drama Club(Education Room)
10:15am-10:25am	Singing Believers( Sanctuary)
10:30am-11:30am	In-person/online Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45am-11:30am	Children's Sunday School (Education Room)
11:30am-12:00pm	Bell Choir (Sanctuary)
2:00pm-2:30pm	Dress Rehearsal Concert(Sanctuary)
3:00pm-6:00pm	Christmas Concert (Sanctuary/Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Monday, December 18:**

9:00pm-12:00pm	Member's Party(Social Hall)
7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room and Chapel)

### **Tuesday, December 19:**

9:30am-10:15am	Baby Bandstand (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)

### **Wednesday, December 20:**

7:15pm-9:15pm	Toastmasters (Social Hall)
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### **Thursday, December 21:**

1:30pm-5:00pm	CPR (Chapel)
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### **Friday, December 22**

7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Basement)
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### **Saturday, December 23:**

12:00pm-1:00pm	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
1:00pm-1:45pm	Contemporary Ensemble (Sanctuary)
2:00pm-3:30pm	Instrumental Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
2:00pm-11:00pm	EMC Shalom (Fellowship Room)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Christmas Outreach Project

Angel Tree Christmas™ equips churches and other organizations to restore and strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children and families. Every Christmas, Angel Tree mobilizes local churches and organizations to minister to hundreds of thousands of children by

delivering a gift, the Gospel message, and a personal message of love on behalf of their mom or dad behind bars. Will you help us by sponsoring a child this season? Please take an angel from the tree in the Social Hall or visit [www.umcsummit.org](http://www.umcsummit.org), or simply scan the QR code above to access the virtual giving page.



This year, our church has committed to sponsoring 20 children, and we are halfway to our goal! A huge “thank you” to all who have participated thus far. Here is a note from President and CEO of Prison Fellowship:

Dear UMC of Summit,

We're so grateful you made the incredible decision to put your compassion into action to help make a difference in the life of an incarcerated parent's child. Through your act of kindness, you'll help restore childhood to those who face the reality of having a parent in prison – and reach them with the Good News of the Gospel of God's love. **Thanks to your generosity, these Angel Tree children will know they are loved and not forgotten this Christmas.** Would you please remember to pray for all Angel Tree children and their families throughout this Christmas season? Thank you again for your generous gift. What a blessing!

Yours in His service, James J. Ackerman, CFO Prison Fellowship

## College Hang Out December 18th from 6-8pm in the Green Room

For college students and young adults within the congregation to have fun and fellowship together. There will be games, tacky Christmas sweaters, and food. If interested in attending, please bring a dish or beverage to share with others.



Will you help the children put on **THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER?!?! We still have some openings in our Christmas Eve Pageant.** Maybe you can recall your Christmas Eve pageant days and the pageants that the church has put on. There are

openings for both speaking and non-speaking roles. If you are interested, please reach out to CYF Minister Carrie-Lee at [cyfminister@umcsummit.org](mailto:cyfminister@umcsummit.org).



## Christmas Eve Services Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30AM and 7:30PM

10:30AM: Family Friendly Service with Children's Pageant

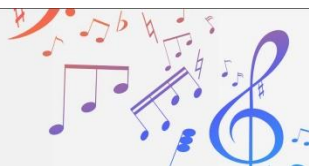
7:30PM: Traditional Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols





United Methodist  
Church of Summit

## MUSIC MINISTRY



This is a wonderful time to consider sharing your musical gifts as we praise Our Lord!

**The Music Ministry line up is as follows:**

**Saturdays: 12:00-1:00 Chancel Choir**

**1:00-1:45 Contemporary Ensemble**

**2:00-3:30 Instrumental**

**Sundays: 9:30-10:15 Chancel Choir, 10:30 Worship,**

**11:45 Bell Choir, 12:15 Singing Believers Children's Choir**

**For more information please email JoAnne Teubner Prussak.**

**[office@umcsummit.org](mailto:office@umcsummit.org)**



### **Nominations open for Lay Ministry Recognition Awards**

Is there a Lay Member in our church that has shown you and the community true discipleship? The Laity Board honors GNJ laity and celebrates their ministry through the annual "Lay Ministry Recognition Awards." The 2024 awards will recognize individuals and teams who demonstrate Christ-like ministry that recruits and equips others to engage in serving the next generation (children/youth/young adults) and/or ending the sin of racism. To nominate an individual or group in your church for their creativity and commitment to transforming lives and making disciples of Jesus Christ, complete the nomination form by February 1, 2024.

Awardees will receive a banner and recognition certificate, provided to their local church for celebration. Learn more:

**<https://www.gnjumc.org/lay-ministry-recognition/>**

## CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES UPDATES

### CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES UPDATE

The CYF Ministry program is in full swing! As a reminder, children meet for Drama Club at 9:30am in the Green Room. At 10:15am children join their families for worship in the sanctuary. Children are released to Sunday School or welcome to stay after the Children's Message. Please see the following calendar for updates over the next few weeks.

## UMC SUMMIT

### CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

*month at a glance*

#### DRAMA CLUB

Dec. 17: Christmas Pageant Practice

Dec. 24: **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DAY!!!**

**Dec. 31-Jan. 28: NO DRAMA CLUB!!!**

**\*\*If your child has a part in the pageant, please have them at Drama Club (9:30-10:15 am). \*\***

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dec. 17: LESSON - The Light of the World

Dec. 24: Family Christmas Eve Service

(No Sunday School -> Christmas Pageant)

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL New Years Eve!!!**

Jan. 7: LESSON - The Wise Men

Jan. 14: LESSON - Jesus in the Temple

#### YOUTH GROUP

Jan. 7: Monthly Meeting

6:00-8:00 pm in Green Room

Dinner will be provided



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# Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17th at 3.00pm

*Featuring the choirs of the church  
& professional soloists*



**Free and open to all.** Donations are welcome.

17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ.

