



United Methodist
Church of Summit



17 Kent Place Boulevard
Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 277-1700

office@umcsummit.org
www.umcsummit.org

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: Kimberle Gray
Sexton: Fred Herse

July 7th, 2024
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
“On Purpose” Worship Series

*The United Methodist Church of Summit invites you to journey with us on
the mystery of faith!*

PRELUDE Intermezzo on *America the Beautiful*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** Juliet Steele

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: We come here today with our stories, carrying the pasts that have shaped us.

People: Our stories shape us, but our past mistakes do not define us.

Leader: In worship, we open ourselves to God’s work within us *today*.

People: We come ready to be molded into who God has created us to be.

Leader: Let us worship the one who draws us into new life.

People: May we find meaning and purpose through our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

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

God of everlasting love that never fails, today we pause to say thank you. Thank you for believing in us and giving us purpose, even when we find it hard to believe in ourselves.

Thank you for your patience with us. Help us to support and uplift one another as we each grow in purpose and in community together. Amen.

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

UMH 698 God of the Ages

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Carrie-Lee Farnham

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Carol Conway

New Testament: Acts 9:1-19 (NRSV)

The Conversion of Saul

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God;* **People: Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

UMH 519 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

SERMON

Who Am I?

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 the Spiritual *Let Us Break Bread Together*
William Teubner - Trumpet

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

UMH #94 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION UMH p. 13

(*see insert*)

PRAYER FOR FOURTH OF JULY (*in unison*)

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth. Inspire the minds of all persons to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see love and truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

UMH 696 *America the Beautiful*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Fanfare on the Hymn *Materna*

**Please rise in body or spirit as you are able
Please join us after service for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall.*

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Norma, recovering from a broken hip, the family and friends of Anthony J. "Tony" Gianonne, Sr., Jane McKinley, the Quashi Family on the 10th anniversary of Sam's passing, Steve Ward, Neil Johnson, the friends and family of Dick Keating, Anne and John R., Scott and Vincent, Jerrie Bunell, Robert Curtis.

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, July 7th:

9:00am-10:00am Instrumental
10:00am-10:30am Summer Choir
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 8th:

7:45pm-9:30pm Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room)

Tuesday, July 9th:

9:30am-10:15am Baby Bandstand (Social Hall)
10:00am-4:00pm Debbi's Dance (Dance Studio)
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Wednesday, July 10th:

9:00am-1:00pm Debbi's Dance (Dance Studio)

Friday, July 12th:

9:30am-11:30 am Music Together (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Saturday, July 13th:

12:00pm-2:00pm Instrumental
2:00pm-10:00pm Casa de Esud (Fellowship Room)



Please note: Pastor Laura will be away July 15th-22nd. If you need pastoral care please contact Lay Leader Beverly Alexis at: (917) 941-9939. If you have a pastoral emergency (death, major accident, major injury); or call the church office at: (908) 277-1700.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Annual Back to School Drive June 5th – August 21st, 2024

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. The UMC of Summit in partnership with 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) NEW 1, 3, and 5 Subject Notebooks, NEW Composition Notebooks, NEW 2-Pocket Folders, NEW Pencil Cases, NEW #2 Pencils, NEW Pencil Sharpeners, NEW Erasers, NEW Pens, NEW Hi-lighters, NEW Crayons, Washable Markers, and Colored Pencils, NEW Book Covers, NEW Calculators, NEW Child Safety Scissors, NEW Glue, NEW Rulers (12"), NEW Laptops or Tablets, NEW Headphones, Visa or Amazon Gift Cards. Items can be dropped off to the church office Monday-Friday from 9AM-1PM, or dropped off in the bins in the sanctuary Sunday mornings before or after worship.



Children, Youth, Families

Please note Sunday School and Drama Club are on break until Homecoming Sunday on September 22. Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!



The Summit Area GreenFaith Circle is encouraging communities of faith to support passage of the Green Amendment (SCR43/ ACR119) which

would amend New Jersey's constitution to provide that every person in the state has a constitutional right to a clean environment including the right to clean air, pure water and healthy habitats. The Summit Area GreenFaith Circle has produced postcards which you can sign to support this very important amendment. Postcards are located at the front and rear of the sanctuary. If you would like to help with this initiative, please sign a postcard and leave it in the church office. The signed postcards will be mailed on your behalf. Please see Green Team Chairperson Bill Glancy if you have any questions.



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MUSIC MINISTRY



Share your gift of music by joining our Summer Choir. We rehearse at 10:00 AM in preparation for worship at 10:30. And as the Psalmist in Psalm 104 reminds us, "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being." Let us praise the Lord together in worship and song!

With much love,
JoAnne Teubner Prussak
Director of Music

Homecoming Sunday Open House 9/22/24

Join us September 22nd, as we kick-off the church year with our Homecoming worship service at 10:30AM and a church-wide Open House from 1pm-3pm: Food, Fun, Games!





GNJ&EPA Leadership Academy Bible Study led by Bishop Schol

The EPA&GNJ Leadership Academy features two new, free Bible study courses on the Gospel of Luke and Gospel of John, led by Bishop John Schol. Each in-depth course features videos, assignments, resources and questions for reflection. After taking the courses on the Leadership Academy's new, time-flexible (asynchronous) Teachable platform, participants can learn more in live discussions via Zoom with Bishop Schol, which will be scheduled during the summer. Grounded in the literature and life that emanates from God's Word, the courses focus on how these two timeless Gospels can help us discover a deeper, more vibrant and relevant faith—a faith that can work wonders for our lives, our congregations and our communities. Visit: <https://leadership-academy29.teachable.com/courses/category/the-bible-theology>

GNJ Mission u July 12-14 Mission u 2024

3 Day In-person Event

July 12-14th

Centenary University

Join GNJ's UWF (formerly UMW) for "Mission U" Adult

Study, Youth Study, and

Children's Study. Join us as we explore what it means to be a part of God's "kin-dom". To register visit:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=788294&>



United
Women
in Faith