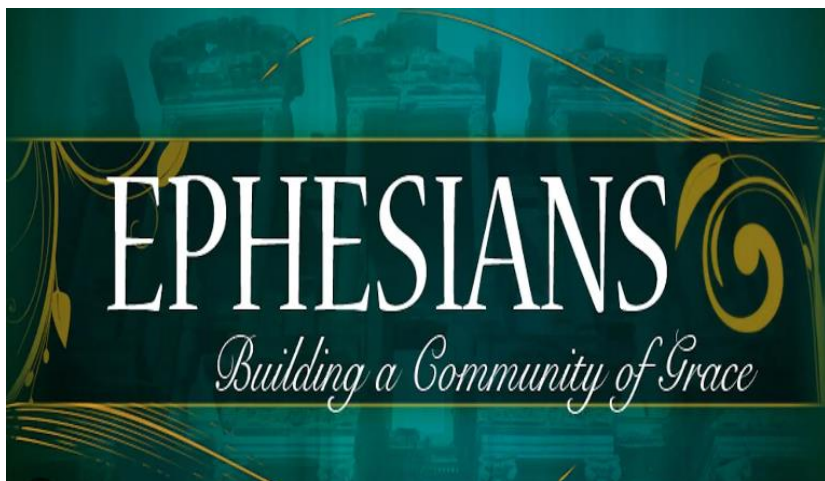




United Methodist
Church of Summit



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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

***OPENING HYMN:** *(please remain standing as you are able)*
UMH #399 *Take My Life and Let it Be*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Carrie-Lee Farnham,
CYF Minister

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Beverly Alexis

SCRIPTURE READING: Carol Conway

Old Testament: Psalm 34:1-8 (NRSV)

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

New Testament: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (NRSV)

Rules for the New Life

So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another,

tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God; **People: Thanks be to God.***

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

TFWS 2145 *I've Got Peace Like a River*

SERMON *Building a Community of Grace: What is Truth?*

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 *Near to the Heart of God*

William Teubner - Trumpet

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

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

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

UMH #389 *Freely, Freely*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Recessional in G* for Trumpet and Organ

Please join us after service for Coffee Hour in the Social Hall.

**denotes to please stand as you are able*

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, August 11th:

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, August 12th:

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

Tuesday, August 13th:

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, August 14th:

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

Friday, August 16th:

1:30pm-4:45pm CPR (Chapel)
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Basement)

Saturday, August 17th:

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Carole Reed, Bob Zotti, Norma, recovering from a broken hip, the family and friends of Anthony J. "Tony" Gianonne, Sr., Jane McKinley, the Quashie 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.

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.

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





Coffee Hour Hosts NEEDED!

The Hospitality Team is in need of volunteers to help host Coffee Hour each Sunday. All you have to do is bring some refreshments for folks to share and we'll do the heavy lifting! There is a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall. For more information or if you have any questions, please see Debbi Picorale



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.



**God's Renewed Creation
5-Week Bible Study**

Wednesdays, 7PM, Sept. 4th – Oct. 2nd

God's creation is in crisis. This beautiful natural world is a loving gift from God, the Creator of all things seen and unseen. Despite the ways we all contribute to these problems, God still invites each one of us to participate in the work of renewal. We must begin the work of renewing creation by being renewed in our own hearts and minds. Join us for this five-week Bible Study based on "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action", a Pastoral letter from the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church. Sessions will meet at 7PM in the Fellowship Room.



**Bike, Walk, or Take Mass Transit to Church Sunday
September 29th, 2024 10:30AM**

Join us as we live out our call to creation care by biking, walking, or taking mass transit to church on September 29th. Please park bikes in the Social Hall.



Blessing of the Animals Service
Friday, October 4th
6PM-7PM, Church Playground

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you" ... Job 12:7. Join us on Friday, October 4th, as we witness to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened. All animals welcome! Please note: Pastor Laura CANNOT bless snakes, however, if you have a snake in need of a blessing she can arrange with another pastor that is able. Please contact the church office at: 908-277-1700 for more information.



George Drossinos
Special Presentation on
Summit's Food Composting Program
Sunday, September 15th, 11:30AM
Social Hall

Did you know Summit has a comprehensive and easy-to-use food composting program? The program offers residents with a disposal permit the option of bringing food scraps and other perishable items to the Transfer Station. Green Bucket Compost collects the food waste once a week, and then the material is converted into renewable energy at a food waste recycling plant. Join us on Sunday, September 15th, during Coffee Hour as we welcome special guest George Drossinos (son-in-law of our very own Office Manager Kimberle Gray) as he gives a special presentation on the history and success of the Summit Food Composting program.



Dr. Laurel Kearns
Special Guest
Preacher
Sunday, September
8th, 10:30AM

Join us for worship on Sunday, September 8th, as we welcome Dr. Laurel Kearns, Associate Professor of Sociology and Religion and Environmental Studies at Drew Theological School and the Graduate Division of Religion of Drew

University where she has taught certification, masters, Ph.D and D. Min students since 1994. Born and raised in Florida, she received a B.A from Florida State in Religion, Art and Humanities, her M.A. and PhD from the Institute of Liberal Arts at Emory University in 1994, with a concentration in the Sociology of Religion. She has researched, published and given talks around the globe on religion and environmentalism for over 20 years. In addition to helping found the Green Seminary Initiative, she has been a board member of GreenFaith since 1995 and is now serving on the Sustainability Committees of both Drew University and the American Academy of Religion, where she also chaired the Religion and Ecology Steering Committee.



Please note: Pastor Laura will be away August 16th-26th. 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) call the church office at: (908) 277-1700.



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Join the UMC of Summit as we celebrate the Season of Creation 2024! The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The "Celebration" begins September 1st, the Feast of Creation, and ends October 6th, World Communion Sunday. We invite you to join us for all of these exciting events!

Sunday, September 1st, 10:30AM: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, September 4th, 7:00PM: Creation Care 5-Week Bible Study Kick-off (Fellowship Room)

Sunday, September 8th, 10:30AM: Guest Preacher Dr. Laurel Kearns, Associate Professor of Sociology and Religion and Environmental Studies at Drew Theological [School](#) (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, September 11th, 7:00PM; Creation Care Bible Study Session 2 (Fellowship Room)

Sunday, September 15th, 10:30AM: Creation Care Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, September 15th, 11:30AM: Special Presentation on Summit Composting Program by George [Drossinos](#), Summit Recycling Advisory Committee (Social Hall)

Wednesday, September 18th, 7:00PM: Creation Care Bible Study Session 3 (Fellowship Room)

Sunday, September 22nd, 10:30AM: Creation Care Worship Service and Kick-off Sunday (Sanctuary)

Sunday, September 22nd, 1PM-3PM: OPEN HOUSE! Food, Fun, and Games! (Entire Church Campus)

Wednesday, September 25th, 7:00PM: Creation Care Bible Study Session 4 (Fellowship Room)

Sunday, September 29th, 10:30AM: Bike, Walk, or Take Mass Transit to Church Sunday (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, October 2nd, 7:00PM: Creation Care Bible Study Session 5 (Fellowship Room)

Friday, October 4th, 6PM-7PM: St. Francis of Assisi Day – Blessing of Animals (Playground Area)

Sunday, October 6th, 10:30AM: World Communion Sunday (Sanctuary)