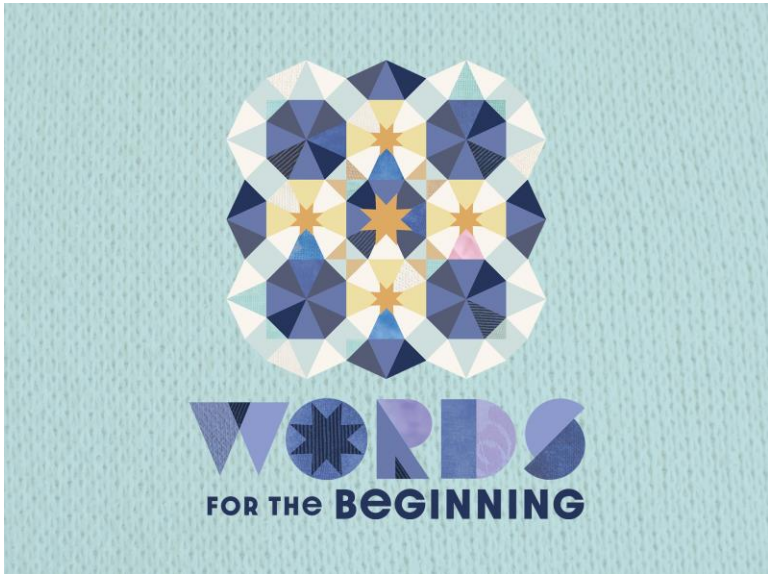


United Methodist Church of Summit



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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

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

The United Methodist Church of Summit is a diverse church committed to serving the Lord Jesus Christ, dedicated to building disciples, passionate about growing in faith, and motivated to be a voice of hope for the world.

PRELUDE Voluntary on *From Heaven Above*
for Trumpet and Organ

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH WEEK THREE

The LaJeunesse Family

Reader A: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Reader B: Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

Reader A: Yes, let us begin with joy.

Reader B: Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy. May these lights remind us of what could be. (*light three blue candles*)

Reader A: May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy. Amen.

***HYMN:** TFWS #2090 *Advent Song* (vv. 1-3)

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Carol Conway

(*please rise as you are able*)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

People: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Leader: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

People: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Leader: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

People: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.

CENTERING PRAYER:

Carol Conway

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We seek hope and peace and find them here with You now. Shower us with your amazing grace so that we may find the joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: UMH# 227 *The Friendly Beasts*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Carrie-Lee Farnham, CYF Minister

ANTHEM:

Infant Redeemer
Chancel Choir

Thomas Fettke

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alison Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING:

Carol Conway

Old Testament: Isaiah 12:2-6 (NRSV)

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

New Testament: Luke 3:7-18 (NRSV)

One more powerful is coming

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed

for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages. As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God; People: Thanks be to God.*

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** UMH#221 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

SERMON: *Do the Good That is Yours to Do* 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:

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Lloyd Larson
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#240 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Recessional on Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**denotes please stand as you are able.
Please join us after service for Coffee Hour*

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Family and Friends of Brock Button, Shonette Smith, Gerry Wells, Dick Duenkel, Jane McKinley, Mary Anne Viaud, Haylie, Carole Reed, Bob Zotti, Norma, recovering from a broken hip, the family and friends of Anthony J. "Tony" Gianonne, Sr., Judy Fish, Adrian Philips, all those affected by hurricanes and storms, our service men and women around the world.

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, December 15th:

9:00am- 9:30am Instrumental
9:30am-10:00am Chancel Choir
10:00am-10:20am Bell Choir
10:30am-11:30am In-person/online Worship
10:45am-11:30am Children's Sunday School
11:30am-12:30pm Coffee Hour (Social Hall)
11:45am-12:15pm Singing Believers
3:00pm-5:00pm Christmas Concert & Reception
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Monday, December 16th:

9:00am-12:30pm Summit Psychological Services (Social Hall)
7:45pm-9:30pm Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room)

Tuesday, December 17th:

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

Thursday, December 19th:

7:00pm-8:00pm Christian Yoga (Social Hall)

Friday, December 20th:

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

Saturday, December 21st:

9:30am-11:30am Music Together (Social Hall)
12:00pm-12:30pm Bell Choir
12:30pm-1:00pm Contemporary Ensemble
1:00pm-2:00pm Chancel Choir
2:00pm-10:00pm Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)
2:00pm-3:00pm Instrumental Rehearsal
2:30pm-3:30pm Liturgical Dance

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Join us for Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24th
5PM - Family Friendly Service
with Children's Pageant**

**7PM - Traditional Lessons and
Carols with Candle-lighting**

Advent/Christmas Winter Bible Study Wednesdays 7PM

Join us via Zoom on Wednesday evenings during the Advent and Christmas season as we explore "Words for the Beginning". Sessions will take place: Dec. 4th, 11th, and Jan. 8th, 15th. Please email pastor@umcsummit.org for the zoom info.



NEW!

Angel Tree Christmas Mission

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 visit our website: www.umcsummit.org and click on "2024 Angel Tree Mission" to participate or visit the "Angel Tree" in the Social Hall to participate.

A special THANK YOU to the Keating Family! The UMC of Summit congregation would like to thank the Keating family for donating this year's Christmas tree in honor and memory of long-time UMC of Summit member and friend, Richard "Dick" Keating.



NEW! Help Light Up the Church for a Good Cause! Summit Luminary Project Only \$2.50 to participate!

This year The United Methodist Church of Summit will be participating in Summit's annual Luminary Project on December 24th, where we "Light Up the Night" to support local charities. The Summit Luminary Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that raises funds for various charitable organizations serving Summit, New Jersey and the surrounding communities. Our goal is to light up the church with 100 luminaries at \$2.50 each. If you'd like to support this project, please mark "Luminaries" on your donation. Visit: <https://summitluminaryfund.org/> for more!

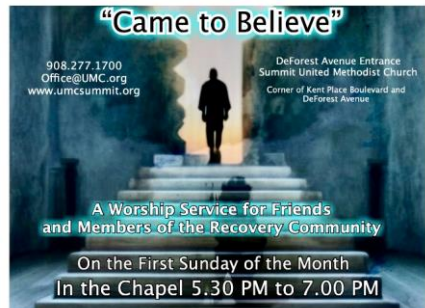


Christmas Pageant News from Sunday School

This Sunday in Sunday School, we're starting Christmas pageant planning. Roles are open to both children and youth, so bring your Christmas cheer!

Kids and youth are invited to join our Pop-Up Nativity Pageant during the Christmas Eve Family Service! With no lines to memorize, everyone can participate as angels, shepherds, wise people, Mary, Joseph, or even animals. We'll hold occasional Sunday School practices so kids know when to come in, but all are welcome to jump in on Christmas Eve. Celebrate the joy of the season with us! If you'd like to participate, please email: CYFMinister@umcsummit.org

**"CAME TO BELIEVE"
WORSHIP SERVICE
For People in Recovery, Their
Friends and Family
First Sunday of the Month,
5:30pm** All are invited to attend this worship service created to speak to the needs of people in recovery as well as their families and friends. Please join us on the first Sunday of every month, in the UMC Chapel located on Deforest Avenue.





United Methodist
Church of Summit

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15th 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.