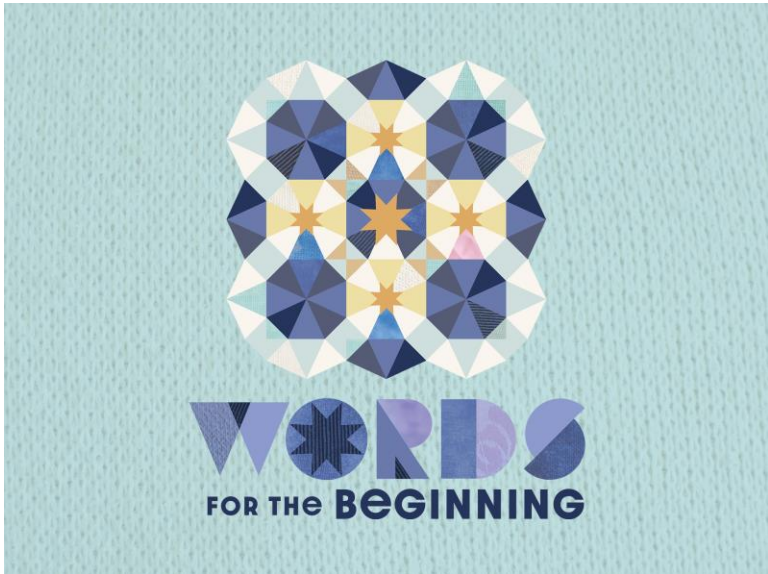




United Methodist
Church of Summit



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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 22, 2024

Fourth 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 *Aire in F Major* for Trumpet and Organ
Johann Sebastian Bach

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH WEEK FOUR

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

Reader B: Let us begin with vulnerability. Let us begin with love.

Reader A: Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone. *(light all four blue candles)*

Reader B: May the truth in these lights guide us through all the seasons of life, from new beginnings to the endings of seasons. May God's hope, peace, joy, and love live within us.

***HYMN** TFWS#2090 *Advent Song* (vv. 1-4)

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Kim Goldman

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: In this weary world,

People: we sing of joy.

Leader: In this fragile world,

People: we lift each other up in joy.

Leader: In this beautiful world,

People: we look for God.

Leader: In this tender world,

People: we hold onto hope.

Leader: This is the invitation of faith.

People: Emmanuel, God with us, we enter into worship this day with love in our hearts!

CENTERING PRAYER:

Kim Goldman

Gracious God, You paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we listen with skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we analyze the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: UMH #230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alison Johnson

ANTHEM: *The Coming Joy*

Joseph Martin

Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Laura Steele

SCRIPTURE READING:

Kim Goldman

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:6-9 (NRSV)

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

New Testament: Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,

because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God; **People: Thanks be to God.***

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** TFWS 2099 *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine*

SERMON: *Words for the Beginning: Risk Hope*
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:
Variations on O Little Town of Bethlehem
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)*
TFWS#2032 *My Life is In You, Lord*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Voluntary on a Traditional Spiritual*

**denotes please stand as you are able.*



Please join us today after service for Hot Chocolate and Christmas Caroling outside on the Playground!!

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, December 22nd:

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
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Monday, December 23rd:

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

Tuesday, December 24th:

5:00pm-6:00pm Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service
7:00pm-8:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 25TH & 26TH

Friday, December 27th:

7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Saturday, December 28th:

2:00pm-10:00pm Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)
2:30pm-3:30pm Liturgical Dance

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Adrian Philips, Jane McKinley, United Methodists in Nigeria, 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, all those affected by hurricanes and storms, our service men and women around the world.

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, 18th 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.

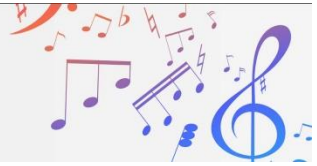
NEW! Help Light Up the Church for a Good Cause! Summit Luminary Project Only \$2.50 to participate!

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!



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MUSIC MINISTRY



Please Note: the SUMC choirs and ensembles will be on break starting December 28th, and resuming on January 25th/26th. If you are interested in joining any of our Music Ministry program, please email Director of Music, JoAnne Teubner Prussak, at Office@UMCSummit.org.



CYF Ministries Update

Please note: There will be no Sunday School or Creative Christianity on December 29, 2024. Sunday School and Creative Christianity will resume on January 5, 2025. If you are interested in more information about our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries programming, please email CYF Minister, Carrie-Lee Farnham, at:

CYFMinister@umcsummit.org.

YOGAFAITH

Yogafaith

Thursdays 7PM and Fridays 11AM

Please note: there will be no Yogafaith classes December 26th and 27th, classes resume January 2nd. All levels are welcome, no experience necessary. Suggested donation of \$10 per class. Email Pastor@umsummit.org for more info!



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

The UMC of Summit realized that there is a need for a "safe space" for recovering individuals, their friends and families, and saw that our church could provide that

space by offering a worship service for all those people whose lives have been affected by alcoholism and addiction. Everyone is invited to attend the 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.

