



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

Seminary Intern: Alison Johnson

January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

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

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Jesse Reyes - guitar

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: Arise! Shine!

People: God's light has come to reveal a new path.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

People: God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.

Leader: Arise! Shine!

People: Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

CENTERING PRAYER:

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before us. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: TFWS #2096 *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Laura Steele

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Carol Conway

SCRIPTURE READING:

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:16-21 (NRSV)

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

New Testament: Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSV)

The Visit of the Magi

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his

mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of God, for the people of God; People: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** TFWS #2226 *Bind Us Together* (3x)

SERMON: *Another Road* 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: *Mary Did You Know?* Mark Lowry
Jesse Reyes - guitar; Lou Steele - vocals

***DOXOLOGY:** *(please rise as you are able)*
UMH #95 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(see insert)*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION AND STAR WORDS:
Hosanna Hillsong Worship
Lou Steele - guitar and vocals

***CLOSING HYMN:** *(please rise as you are able)*
TFWS #2223 *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*
Chris Tomlin

**denotes please stand as you are able.*

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Beverly Alexis, The family and loved ones of 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, 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.

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, January 5th:

- 10:30am-11:30am In-person/online Worship
- 11:30am-12:30pm Coffee Hour (Social Hall)
- 7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Monday, January 6th:

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

Tuesday, January 7th:

- 9:30am-10:15am Baby Bandstand (Social Hall)
- 1:30pm-9:30pm Debbi's Dance
- 7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Wednesday, January 8th:

- 1:30pm-9:30pm Debbi's Dance

Thursday, January 9th:

- 2:45pm-9:00pm Debbi's Dance
- 3:30pm-5:00pm Girl Scouts (Social Hall)
- 7:00pm-8:00pm Christian Yoga (Social Hall)

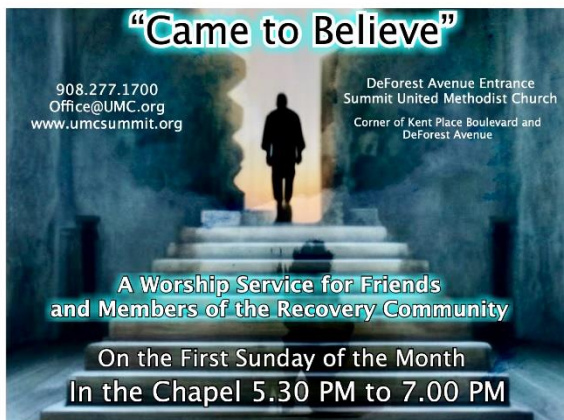
Friday, January 10th:

- 11:00am-12:00pm Christian Yoga (Chapel)
- 7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Saturday, January 11th:

- 8:30am-4:30pm Debbi's Dance
- 11:00am-12:00pm Memorial Service- Adrian Phillips (Sanctuary)
- 12:00pm-2:00pm Memorial Tea (Social Hall)
- 2:00pm-10:00pm Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



"CAME TO BELIEVE" WORSHIP SERVICE TONIGHT – Jan. 5th, 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 Sundays of the month in the UMC Chapel located on Deforest Avenue. **FREE Childcare provided! FREE coffee and refreshments! ALL are welcome!**



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 programs, please email Director of Music, JoAnne Teubner Prussak, at Office@UMCSummit.org.

Children's Ministry

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Update

Sunday School is BACK! Join us today as we kick-off our CYF programming with Creative Christianity at 9:30AM and Sunday School at 10:45AM. 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.



The poster features a purple background with abstract white and yellow patterns. At the top, it reads 'UMC SUMMIT' in large white letters, with 'CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS' in smaller yellow letters below it. The lessons are organized into two white rounded rectangles. The first rectangle is for January, listing lessons for 1.5, 1.12, 1.19, and 1.26. The second rectangle is for February, listing lessons for 2.2, 2.9, 2.16, and 2.23. Each lesson entry includes a date, a title, and a Bible reference. Small star icons are placed next to each date.

Month	Date	Lesson Title	Bible Reference
January	1.5	The Visit of the Magi	Matthew 2:1-12
	1.12	Jesus' Baptism	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
	1.19	Jesus Calls His Disciples	John 1:29-42
	1.26	Jesus Announces His Mission	Luke 4:14-21
February	2.2	Jesus Presented in the Temple	Luke 2:22-40
	2.9	The Calling of the First Disciples	Luke 5:1-11
	2.16	The Beatitudes	Luke 6:17-26
	2.23	Love Your Enemies	Luke 6:27-38



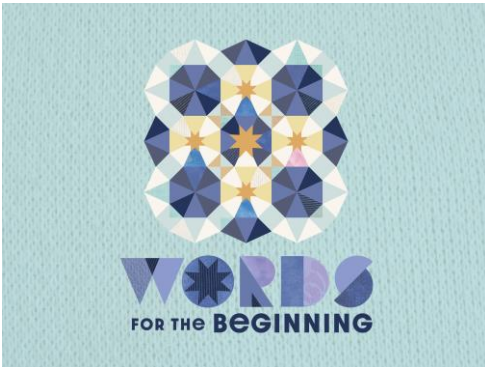
Creative Christianity Creative Christianity is Back!

Join us this week as we kick off the New Year with fun, hands-on activities for all ages. Join us at 9:30AM in the Green Room. Creative Christianity is an inter-generational program for all ages to explore faith through creative modalities. Drop the kids and grab a coffee or stay and play!



NEW! “Wings of Faith” Liturgical Dance Ministry
Saturdays, 2:30-3:30PM
Starting January 18, 2025

Join the UMC of Summit for our NEW Liturgical Dance Ministry. Liturgical dance is a form of praise and should be thought of as an act of worship, rather than a performance. We are praising God through movement and expression. We want the congregation to feel they are part of our expression, accepting the dance as a form of prayer. Resident dance instructor Debbi Picorale will be leading the classes on Saturdays in the Dance Studio. See Ms. Debbi for more information, all levels welcome – no experience necessary!



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.

YOGAFAITH

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Thursdays 7PM and Fridays 11AM

All levels are welcome, no experience necessary. Suggested donation of \$10 per class. Email Pastor@umsummit.org for more info!