



United Methodist  
Church of Summit



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Summit, NJ 07901  
(908) 277-1700

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[www.umcsummit.org](http://www.umcsummit.org)

[www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchofSummit](http://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  
Seminary Intern: Alison Johnson  
Sexton: Fred Herse

**February 23, 2025**  
**Seventh Sunday After Epiphany**

**PRELUDE** *Majestic Processional* for Trumpet and Organ  
George F. Handel

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** Carol Conway

*(please rise as you are able)*

Leader: Take delight in the Lord and receive the desires of your heart.

**People: We will bring a generosity of spirit and sing the harmony of mercy.**

Leader: The meek shall inherit the land and rejoice in God's love.

**People: We praise the Lord of mercy, pouring it out for all.**

Leader: Do good and trust the Lord. Love first; forgive first; give first.

**People: We come to worship, to heed the Word, and to grow in faith and love.**

**\*CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)* Carol Conway

**Lord God, we come before you as imperfect creatures. We yearn to feel your warm embrace. We long to touch your love and forgiveness, despite our shortcomings. We come together this day as one body, to pause, to pray, and to praise. Be with us in this place, help us claim the power of your love for our lives. Help us to experience your grace, together with forgiveness, and offer it to others as you would have us do. Help us bless those who curse us and to pray for those who mistreat us. This is your direction for our lives and we will follow as we are able. Amen.**

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

UMH#390 *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

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

**ANTHEM:** *Change My Heart, Oh God*  
Ximenita Gonzalez, Mezzo-Soprano

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Rev. Laura Steele

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Carol Conway

**Old Testament: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (NRSV)**

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do good; live in the land and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday. Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked and saves them because they take refuge in him.

**New Testament: Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)**

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

TFWS #2162 *Grace Alone*

**SERMON:**

*Radical Rules*

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 Come, We That Love the Lord*  
William Teubner - trumpet

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

UMH #95 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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

UMH #519 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *Maestoso in E Flat* for Trumpet and Organ

Robert Wetzler

*\*denotes please stand as you are able*

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

**In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

Patricia, Dotti Zotti, Beverly Alexis, the family and loved ones of Adrian Phillips, Jane McKinley, United Methodists in Nigeria, the family and friends of Brock Button, Shonette Smith, Gerry Wells, Dick Duenkel, 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, February 23rd:**

9:00am-9:30am Instrumental Rehearsal  
9:30am-10:00am Chancel Choir  
10:00am-10:30am Bell Choir  
10:30am-11:30am In-person/online Worship  
10:45am-11:30am Sunday School  
11:30am-12:30pm Coffee Hour (Social Hall)  
11:45am-12:15pm Singing Believers  
3:00pm-5:00pm Lifeline Anxiety Workshop (Social Hall)  
7:30pm-8:30pm Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

### **Monday, February 24th:**

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

### **Tuesday, February 25th:**

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

### **Wednesday, February 26th:**

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

### **Thursday, February 27th:**

2:45pm-9:00pm Debbi's Dance  
7:00pm-8:00pm Christian Yoga (Social Hall)

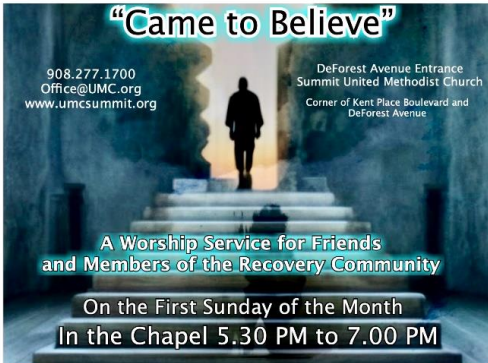
### **Friday, February 28th:**

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

### **Saturday, March 1st:**

8:30am-4:30pm Debbi's Dance  
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-3:00pm Instrumental Rehearsal  
2:00pm-10:00pm Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)  
2:30pm-3:30pm Liturgical Dance

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## "CAME TO BELIEVE" WORSHIP SERVICE March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30PM

Please join us on the first Sunday of every month in the UMC Chapel located on DeForest Avenue. **FREE Childcare provided!** **FREE coffee and refreshments!** **ALL are welcome!**

## Ash Wednesday Service March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM Reeves Chapel

What are the things you hunger for? Join us as we kick off the Lenten series "A Different Kind of Fast". Each week

we will embrace simplicity as we sojourn to the cross on Good Friday and the Resurrection on Easter morning. Our Ash Wednesday service begins this pilgrimage. It is a time to create sacred space and listen to the deep desires of our hearts to grow closer to God this season. We hope you will join us, all are welcome!

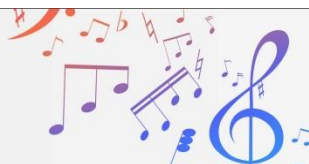


**Reminder to all Ad Council members:** The next meeting of the Ad Council will take place in the Social Hall on March 10, 2025 at 7:30 pm



United Methodist  
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## MUSIC MINISTRY



Come and make a joyful sound! Come before the Lord with Praise and Thanksgiving! Come and share your gift of music as we praise and worship the Lord in our magnificent Sanctuary!

### Saturdays

- 12:00 Bell Choir
- 12:30 Contemporary Ensemble
- 1:00 Chancel Choir
- 2:00 Instrumental

### Sundays

- 9:00 Instrumental
- 9:30 Chancel Choir
- 10:00 Bell Choir
- 10:30 Worship
- 11:45 Singing Believers

Please come and make music to the Lord with your church friends. For more information, please e-mail Director of Music, JoAnne Teubner Prussak, at [office@umcsummit.org](mailto:office@umcsummit.org)



## FREE PROM SHOP

Saturday, April 5, 2025  
11am - 4pm



**NOW ACCEPTING  
DONATIONS**

of  
Formal Wear, Shoes and Accessories  
for  
Young Men and Ladies

Drop off at the Church Office  
anytime between 9am - 3pm  
17 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ  
908-277-1700



## FREE Prom Shop April 5<sup>th</sup>, 11AM-4PM

The UMC of Summit is hosting a free "Prom Shop" this Spring for local students and we need your help! Do you have formal wear and/or accessories that you no longer need? Please consider donating to this initiative and make this event season unforgettable! Please drop off donations to the church Monday-Friday from 9AM-1PM, or bring them in on Sunday mornings. If you know a student who would like to participate, call the church office: 908-277-1700 to make an appointment.



## Dinner Church Soup Suppers

**Wednesdays at 6pm – March 12 to April 9, 6PM**

Join us as we break bread together during Lent. This interactive church dinner experience allows us to worship and dive deeper into the Bible over a delicious soup supper. All are welcome! Please look out for the soup supper sign-up sheet during Coffee Hour.

## Donations for Jefferson School Easter Baskets

Our partnership with Jefferson Elementary School continues this year as we seek to arrange Easter dinners for 10 families in need. *Please help fill these baskets by donating food. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Social Hall for your convenience, beginning on March 9th. Boxes for donations are in the Social Hall. All Easter dinner donations will be gathered by April 6th*, and delivered to and distributed by Jefferson School. We will also accept financial donations to give funds that will be transformed into food and gift cards for the families. **All financial donations are needed by March 30th** and can be made by sending in a check with "Jefferson School" in the memo line or by using an envelope located in the Social Hall. The delivery date for the donations will be April 7<sup>th</sup>.



The next meeting of the Green Team will take place in the Fellowship Room on February 23, at 11:30 am. There will also be a Zoom Meeting of the **Summit Area Green Faith Circle** on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. If

anyone has an interest in attending the meeting please speak to Bill Glancy after worship or email him at [bglancy2@verizon.net](mailto:bglancy2@verizon.net)



## **NEW! Eagle Scout Project Fundraiser**

UMC Summit youth member, Alec La Jeunesse, will be gifting the church with his Eagle Scout Project this Spring. Alec is looking for the church's help to support this project. Our goal is to raise \$600. If you'd like to donate, please mark "Eagle Scout Project" on your envelope or check, or you can donate online via our website: [www.umcsummit.org](http://www.umcsummit.org) and click on "GIVE".



My Name is Alec La Jeunesse. I'm working to obtain Eagle Scout rank with Kenilworth Troop 83. My Eagle Scout project is the restoration of the  
United Methodist Church of Summit's memorial garden.

The elements of my project are:  
Level the slate walkway  
Polish the brass plaque  
Install solar powered lighting along the walkway  
Plant some additional bushes throughout the garden.

Our funding goal for this project \$600.00 any amounts of donation.  
Will be greatly appreciated.  
You can donate on the Boy Scouts of America website?  
Thank You!

## Children Youth and Families Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS			
1.19 - 2.9	Souper Bowl of Caring	Chili Cook Off @ 3 PM	2.16
2.23	Youth Mental Health Night @ 3-6 PM	Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 PM	3.5
3.12	Wednesday Lent Soup Supper Begins @ 6 PM	Prom Shop @ 11 AM - 4 PM	4.5
4.6	Egg Stuffing Party	Easter Egg Hunt	4.12
4.17	Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30 PM	Good Friday Service @ 7:30 PM	4.18
4.20	Easter Breakfast @ 9:30 AM	Easter Service @ 10:30 AM	4.20
6.8	Education Sunday Service @ 10:30 AM	BBQ Picnic @ 11:30 AM	6.8
6.15	Music Ministry Sunday @ 10:30 AM	TEA with a TWIST @ 3:30 PM	6.8

## Children's Ministry

### Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Update

Sunday School is BACK! Join us every Sunday for our CYF programming with Creative Christianity at 9:30AM and Sunday School at 10:45AM. Email: [CYFMinister@umcsummit.org](mailto:CYFMinister@umcsummit.org) for more!



### Creative Christianity

#### Creative Christianity is Back!

Join at 9:30AM every Sunday as we celebrate our faith with fun, hands-on activities for all ages. Join us at 9:30AM in the Green Room. This is an intergenerational program for all ages to explore faith through creative modalities. Drop the kids and grab a coffee or stay and play!

NEW! Mental Health Seminar: From Fear to Flourishing



# Lifeline Mental Health Seminar

**FROM FEAR TO FLOURISHING:  
SUPPORTING ANXIOUS KIDS AND PARENTS**

**FEBRUARY 23RD, 3PM-5PM**

**THE UMC OF SUMMIT  
17 KENT PLACE BLVD, SUMMIT, NJ**



**WHO: PARENTS AND YOUTH  
8TH GRADE & UP**

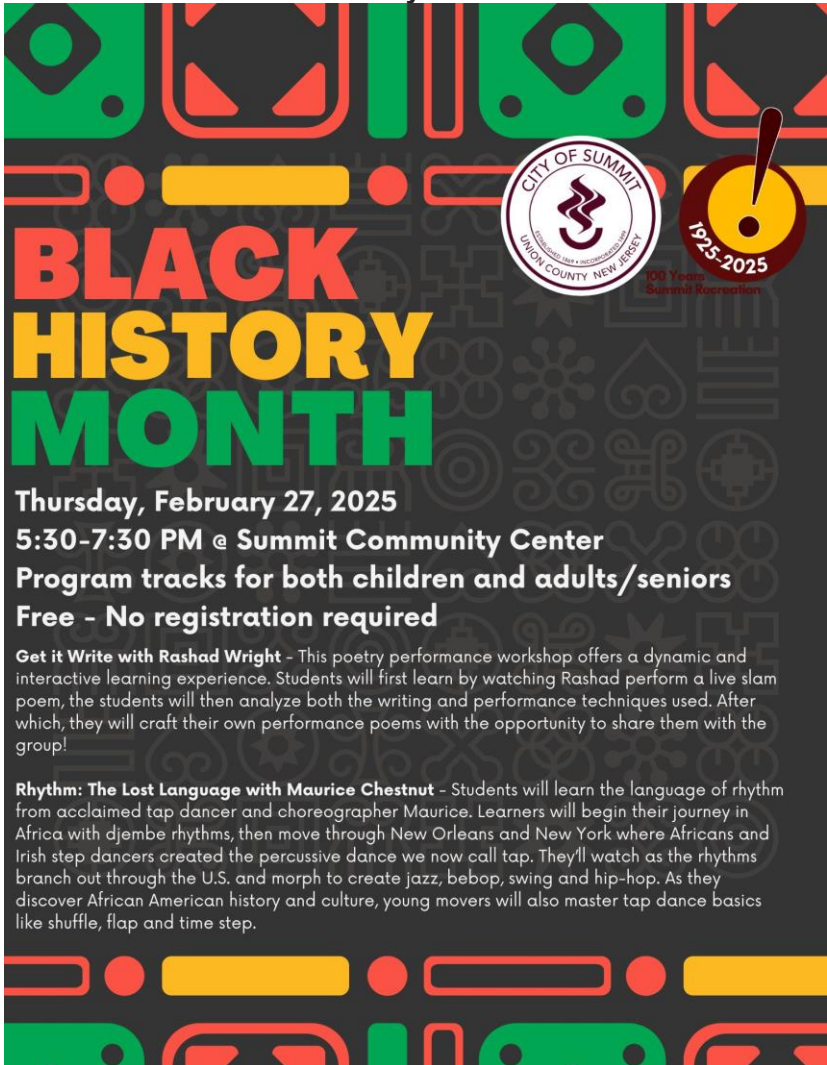
**SPEAKER: DR. ALISON JOHNSON &  
THERAPISTS FROM SUMMIT  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**COST: FREE (DONATIONS  
GRATEFULLY RECEIVED)**



**[WWW.UMCSUMMIT.ORG](http://WWW.UMCSUMMIT.ORG)**

Celebrate Black History Month here in Summit



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Thursday, February 27, 2025**  
**5:30-7:30 PM @ Summit Community Center**  
**Program tracks for both children and adults/seniors**  
**Free - No registration required**

**Get it Write with Rashad Wright** - This poetry performance workshop offers a dynamic and interactive learning experience. Students will first learn by watching Rashad perform a live slam poem, the students will then analyze both the writing and performance techniques used. After which, they will craft their own performance poems with the opportunity to share them with the group!

**Rhythm: The Lost Language with Maurice Chestnut** - Students will learn the language of rhythm from acclaimed tap dancer and choreographer Maurice. Learners will begin their journey in Africa with djembe rhythms, then move through New Orleans and New York where Africans and Irish step dancers created the percussive dance we now call tap. They'll watch as the rhythms branch out through the U.S. and morph to create jazz, bebop, swing and hip-hop. As they discover African American history and culture, young movers will also master tap dance basics like shuffle, flap and time step.

**CITY OF SUMMIT**  
UNION COUNTY NEW JERSEY

**100 Years**  
1925-2025  
Summit Recreation

**A Note from the UMC Front Office.** Hello everyone, it's Kim here. It has been so nice meeting many of you, chatting on the phone and even sharing recipes! As you know, the front office is responsible for the timely production of church bulletins and the weekly newsletter. If you have any content, announcements, special events you would like me to include in any of these, I am happy to do so. Please have any bulletin or newsletter announcements to me by noon on the Wednesday of the week that they should be published. That way we can ensure that your event gets included right away, without any last-minute rush. Thanks so much!