



United Methodist Church of Summit

A Note From the Pastor



Lent's Quiet Call

The ash reminds, a somber hue,
Of dust we are, and dust anew,
But Lent's not just a time of gloom,
But space for seeds of grace to bloom.
Let's turn our hearts, a gentle quest,
To seek the peace within our breast.
To quiet thoughts, to listen deep,

Where God's soft promise we can keep.
Through prayer and fast, a mindful way,
To cleanse our souls, come what may.
To serve with love, and share with grace,
And find God's presence in this place.
For in this season, we re-align,
With God's design, a love divine.
And as we journey, hand in hand,
To Easter's dawn, across the land.
-Anonymous

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we step into the sacred season of Lent, I invite you to journey together in a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent is a season of drawing near to God, of opening our hearts to God's grace, and of preparing to celebrate the joy of resurrection on Easter morning.

Over these forty days, may we embrace the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and service—not as mere rituals, but as opportunities to deepen our faith and experience God's transforming love. Whether through quiet moments of solitude, acts of kindness, or gathering in worship, let us walk this path with open hearts and willing spirits.

I encourage you to join us for our special Lenten services and gatherings as we seek the Lord together. May this season lead us closer to the cross and, ultimately, to the victory of Christ's resurrection.

With love and blessings,

Rev. Laura Steele
Pastor, UMC Summit

Lent and Easter Overview

Ash Wednesday March 5th, 7:30PM, Reeves Chapel

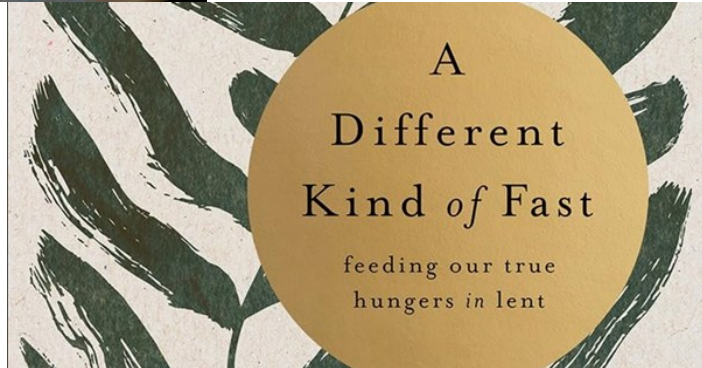
What are the things you hunger for? Join us as we kick off the Lenten theme "*A Different Kind of Fast*". Each week we will embrace simplicity as we sojourn to the cross on Good Friday and the Resurrection on Easter morning. Our Ash Wednesday service begins this pilgrimage. It is a time to create sacred space and listen to the deep desires of our hearts to grow closer to God this season. We hope you will join us!



Sunday Lent Worship Series
***“A Different Kind of Fast:
 Feeding our True Hungers in
 Lent”***

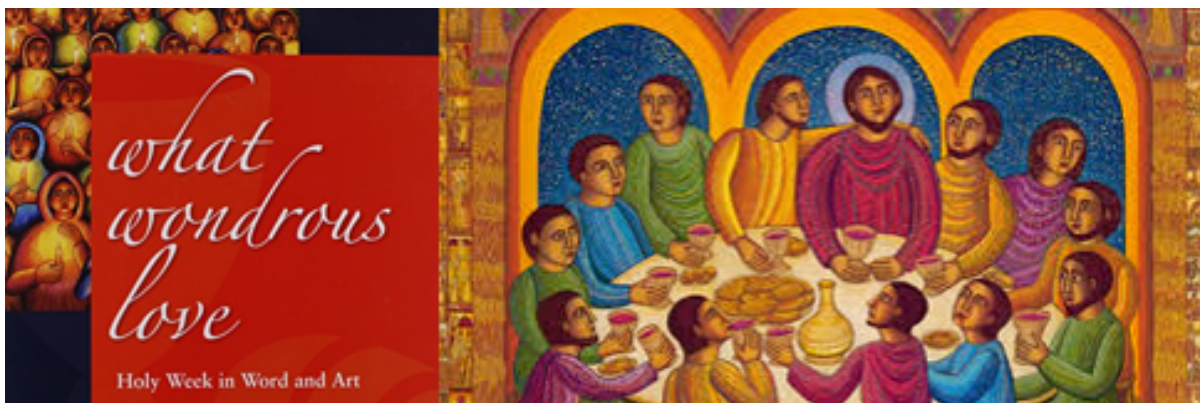
Based on Christine Valters
 Paintner’s book of the same title,

we’ll be exploring ways we can slow down and be more mindful this Lent. What do you hunger for? So often we think we need to give something up during Lent that doesn’t really affect our full wellbeing. What if we fed our true hungers and stepped back from consuming all the messages that the world feeds us? We might find true peace and love in God.



Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30AM for worship:

- **March 9:** Fasting from Multi-tasking, Embracing Full Presence
- **March 16:** Fasting from Scarcity Anxiety, Embracing Abundance
- **March 30:** Fasting from Speed and Rushing, Embracing Pause
- **April 6:** Fasting from Holding it all Together, Embracing Vulnerability
- **April 13:** Fasting from Planning and Deadlines, Embracing Unfolding



Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers
Dinner Church Soup Suppers: “What Wondrous Love”
March 12th – April 9th, 6:00PM

Join us in the Social Hall 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. This year we will study the powerful story of Holy Week as told in the four gospels. Six passages of scripture will be presented by DVD with stunning illustrations by artist John August Swanson, along with commentary by faculty members of the Candler School of Theology. Discussion and activities will follow. With the beauty and power of art and sacred text, the insight of Candler's scholars, this experience may act as a new catalyst for your journey of faith during the Lenten season.

March 12th: A Journey into Holy Week

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 (Jesus' Triumphal Entry)

Artwork Focus: Entry into the City

March 19th: The Last Supper

Scripture: Luke 22:14-23

Artwork Focus: The Last Supper

March 26th: Gethsemane & Betrayal

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-50

Artwork Focus: The Passion of Jesus (Gethsemane Panel)

April 2nd: The Trial and Crucifixion

Scripture: John 19:1-30

Artwork Focus: Way of the Cross

April 9th: The Resurrection Hope

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Artwork Focus: Resurrection



Join us for Holy Week!



Palm Sunday

April 13th, 10:30AM

Join us on Palm Sunday as our children participate in our annual If your child would like to participate in the Palm parade, please arrive at 10:15am.

Maundy Thursday

April 17th, 7:30PM

Join us for our Maundy Thursday handwashing service in the Chapel. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper with Holy Communion. All are welcome!



Good Friday

April 18th, 7:30PM

Join us for a Good Friday "Tenebrae Service of Shadows". "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness." Candles are extinguished one by one as we journey through the biblical story of Jesus' journey to the cross and subsequent death.



Easter Sunday Service

April 20th, 10:30AM

Join us on Easter Sunday as we gather to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This special service will be filled with uplifting worship, a powerful message of hope, and the joy of fellowship as we proclaim, "He is risen!"



March Events



"CAME TO BELIEVE" WORSHIP SERVICE MARCH 2nd, 5:30PM
For People in Recovery, Their Friends and Family
AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT
908-277-1700
Office@umcsummit.org

Came to Believe: A Growing Service of Hope and Healing

Now in its sixth month, the Came to Believe service has become a powerful space of healing, reflection, and community for individuals and families in recovery from addiction and alcoholism. What began as a gathering for those navigating the journey of sobriety has grown into a meaningful experience that resonates with a broader audience—welcoming not only those in recovery but also church members and new visitors from the wider community.

The service offers a unique blend of readings, poetry, and creative experiences, fostering a deeply personal and spiritual connection. Guest musicians from the community bring their gifts to enrich the service, adding to the atmosphere of reflection and renewal. Many attendees have shared that the messages and themes explored are relevant to anyone seeking hope, transformation, and a deeper sense of purpose, not just those in recovery.

As Came to Believe continues to grow, it stands as a testament to the power of shared experience, faith, and creativity in the healing process. Whether you are in recovery, love someone who is, or simply seek a space of support and spiritual nourishment, this service offers a welcoming and meaningful experience for all.

Please join us on Sunday, March 2nd, and the first Sunday of the month thereafter, in the UMC Chapel located on Deforest Avenue. The service starts at 5:30p.m. We provide light refreshments.



Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th, 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!



The next meeting of the **Ad Council** is scheduled for March 10, 2025 in the Social Hall at 7:30 pm.



Dinner Church Soup Suppers Wednesdays at 6pm – March 12 to April 9

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.



Get out your straw hats and grab those sun bonnets...

The Green Team is creating a **Pollinator Garden** and we're inviting everyone to join in on the fun! It's our way of thanking God for our beautiful mother Earth and all the creatures, mostly small.

Pollinator gardens create a perfect haven for bees and butterflies. Here is one way you can be a part of the fun: **between April 1st-April 18th** you can order a pollinator plant through [The Great Swamp Watershed](#). **Please note that we are ONLY ordering from the Dry/Sun Manual.**

- **Plant Sale Opens:** April 1 at 1:30 PM
- Every plant in the program serves a purpose: providing critical habitat and food sources for pollinators. While our Plant – Pollinator Interactions highlights many of these beneficial relationships, the truth is, the connections between native plants, wildlife, and pollinators are virtually endless.
- **Plant Sale Closes:** April 18 at 5:00 PM
- **Order Pickup:** Order pickup in on May 3, with plants distributed locally to your chosen partner-operated pickup location. At checkout, you'll need to select one of 14 local sites to finalize your order. Please note that your selection cannot

be changed after submission. Explore our 2025 Pickup Locations, available through our trusted 2025 Plant Sale Partners, and plan ahead! (Locations subject to change.)

On May 3rd you can pick up your plant and bring it to the church. The Green Team will assist if you are not able to pick up your plant.

On Sunday, May 18th, following worship we will plant our pollinators in our new garden. The event will be accompanied by an outdoor coffee featuring treats made with honey! And there's more. . .

The children will be raising Painted Lady butterflies, which will be released in our new garden.

What makes a beautiful garden? Sunshine, water, love and you! Let's all put our hearts and hands to work together and create a garden to celebrate our love for nature and God.

We will all grow in our faith as we grown our garden together.

April Events



FREE PROM SHOP

—
Saturday, April 5, 2025
11am - 4pm

Free Formal Wear
for
Boys and Girls this
Prom Season

—
For more information
and to
Book an appointment
Please contact
the Church Office
Walk-ins also welcomed
office@UMCSummit.org
or call
(908) 277-1700



The United Methodist Church of Summit is hosting their **2nd Annual Prom Shop**. Our Prom Shop offers free formal wear for both girls and boys. We also offer shoes, jewelry and handbags. Our Prom Shop also offers free alterations. Appointments are appreciated, however walk-ins are welcome.

We are also looking for donations. Prom dresses, tuxedos and accessories are always appreciated. **Donations will be accepted through March 31, 2025.**

Our Prom Shop will be held on April 5, 2025 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the United Methodist Church, 17 Kent Place Blvd., Summit, NJ. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. For more information, please call the church at 908-277-1700.

Last year's Prom Shop was a huge success! Join us in continuing to make dreams come true.



Easter Breakfast
April 20th, 9:15AM

Please join us for **breakfast in the Social Hall** before the 10:30AM Easter Worship Service. All are welcome!



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

A garden clean-up day is scheduled for May 3, 2025 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will be cleaning and mulching the Reeves Memorial Garden.

Mission and Outreach Opportunities



Reflecting on a Year of Mission: Your Generosity at Work

As we step into a new year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible impact our church community made through mission work in the past year. Your generosity and dedication to serving others have touched countless lives, bringing hope, comfort, and joy to those in need. Here's how your contributions made a difference:

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief): \$1510.00 Raised!

Through your generous giving, we supported UMCOR in providing disaster relief and humanitarian aid to communities affected by natural disasters and crises. From assisting with hurricane recovery efforts to providing essential supplies to displaced families, your donations helped bring hope and stability in times of uncertainty.



Family Promise: \$1742.00 Raised!

With your support, we partnered with Family Promise to provide shelter, meals, and resources to families experiencing homelessness. Your contributions helped families

move toward stability, offering them a safe place to stay and the support they needed to regain independence.

319 Families served



1,073
Individuals served



53 Families moved into permanent housing

179 Families avoided homelessness



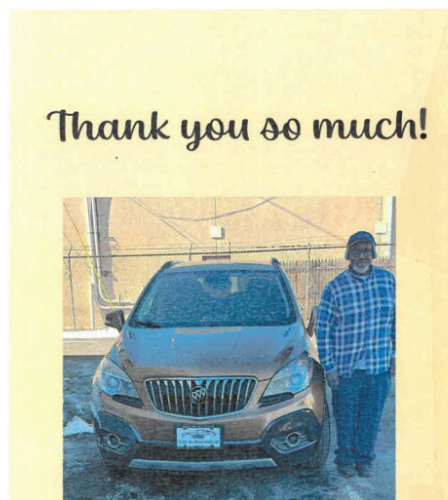
2,465
Housing Risk Screenings

500
Volunteers

129
Families given stabilization support



9,000 Nights of emergency shelter



2/4/25

Dear volunteers of Family Promise Union County,
Thank you for your generosity my family and I will forever be grateful, this car donation came along just in time. It saved me and my family from unexpected hardship.

Lawrence mator

Easter Baskets for Local Families: \$300, plus 10 Easter Baskets full of meals!
Thanks to your kindness, we delivered Easter baskets filled with treats, toys, and

essential items to local families in need. This simple yet meaningful act of love brought joy to children and families, reminding them of the hope and renewal that Easter represents.

Summit Luminary Fund: \$253.00 from UMC Summit, \$144,000 TOTAL!

By donating to the Summit Luminary Fund, we joined hands with our community to support local initiatives that provide assistance to those facing financial hardships. Your generosity helped illuminate the path for individuals and families working toward a brighter future.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree: 12 Children Sponsored!

Through the Angel Tree program, we shared the love of Christ with children of incarcerated parents by providing Christmas gifts and personal messages from their parents. Your contributions helped ensure that these children felt loved and remembered during the holiday season.



School Supplies Drive: 24 Full Bags and Boxes of Supplies!

Equipping students with the tools they need to succeed, we provided backpacks, notebooks, and other essential supplies to children in need through Jersey Cares. Your donations helped ease the burden on families and empowered students to start the school year with confidence.

Each of these missions was made possible because of your faithful giving and compassionate hearts. As we move forward into a new year, let us continue to be a beacon of light in our community and beyond, living out the love of Christ through our actions.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus. May we continue to serve and bless others in the year ahead!



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!

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 and click on "GIVE". Donations for Alec's Eagle Scout project will be accepted through March 9, 2025.



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 7th.



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



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! We are accepting donations for both young men and women. 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, please call the church office: 908-277-1700 to make an appointment.



Youth-Mission Food Drive Reaches Goal, Supports Food Insecure Families

Our community came together in a powerful way, and we are thrilled to announce that we successfully reached our goal of collecting 109 food items to support those experiencing food insecurity!

The youth not only had fun collecting and sorting but they also started to learn and raise awareness of food insecurity. Some of the youth were surprised to learn that approximately 10.7% of New Jersey's population, equating to about 994,800 individuals—including 262,260 children—experience food insecurity. About 38,470 of these people live in our county.

As they organized the food drive, our young volunteers engaged in meaningful discussions about food insecurity, exploring its causes and impact on families in our community. They discovered that food insecurity is not just about having enough food but also about access, affordability, and systemic challenges that make it difficult for many to meet their basic needs.

Through their efforts, they not only reached their collection goal but also deepened their commitment to ongoing service and advocacy. This experience has sparked conversations about what more can be done to address hunger in our area. We will continue to explore this theme and think about future initiatives to keep the momentum going.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed—whether by donating, volunteering, or spreading the word.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Update



Grace and Peace Church Family,

With Lent starting soon and spring weather just around the corner, we have some exciting activities planned for our children, youth, and families!



For starters, our **annual Easter Egg Hunt** is scheduled for April 12th, and we need your assistance to make it a fantastic experience for everyone! This year, we are excited to host two egg hunts, a sensory-friendly hunt and a classic hunt, so even more children can join in the fun!



With this in mind, we need even more plastic eggs, as well as allergy-friendly candy, and fun, non-food items (like fidgets, small toys, and temporary tattoos) to fill the eggs with. Donations will be accepted until April 6th, so please consider contributing! If you have kids or know of any who would like to participate, be sure to sign them up soon, as spots are limited!

To sign-up for the sensory friendly hunt, please use this link

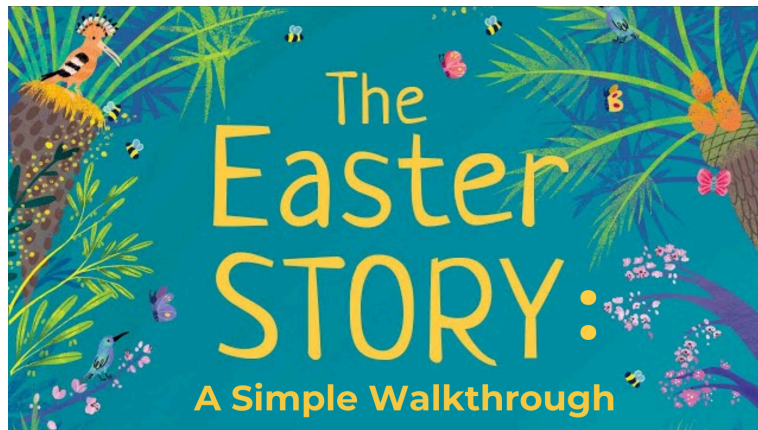
(<https://forms.gle/65ypAtVbHbSJRiH6>), and for the classic hunt, please use this link

(<https://forms.gle/pgxnK1nevcRLsiu87>).



Speaking of stuffing eggs, join us on April 6th after church in the Social Hall for our **annual egg-stuffing event**. It's a great way to serve, earn service hours, and spend time with family and friends. Everyone is welcome, so bring a friend or the whole family and join in the fun!

We are also continuing Sunday School for our kids and are always looking for extra hands to assist with lessons! Since either Alison or I may need to help lead the church service from time to time, having additional volunteers ensures that the kids still have a great experience.



Easter Pageant

We are thrilled to announce that practices for our Easter pageant will begin on March 30th! This year's pageant will be a wonderful celebration of the Easter story and will be performed on Easter Sunday. It's a special opportunity for our children to come together and share in the joy of this meaningful occasion through acting and the spirit of community.

We invite all children and youth to join this exciting experience. The pageant will bring the Easter message to life in a creative and engaging way, and we can't wait to witness the kids grow in confidence and teamwork as we prepare for the big event day.

And of course, **Creative Christianity** is still going strong! I want to personally invite each and every one of you to come and join us. Whether you're 3 or 133, this is an experience for ALL ages. Come on your own or make it a family affair—it's a wonderful time of intergenerational learning and growing together in faith. If you ever feel led to help lead or assist with a lesson, we would love to have you! Plus, it gives the regulars a chance to hear from someone other than me.

We look forward to celebrating this season with you and hope to see you at one (or all!) of these upcoming events!

In Christ,

Carrie-Lee
Children, Youth, and Family Minister
CYFMinister@umcsummit.org

Music Ministry Updates



"Praise God in His Sanctuary!
God has given us an instrument of our very own.
It's the gift of our voices together singing praise!
Praise God with sound of the trumpet!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord!"

Based on Psalm 150

This is a wonderful, meaningful time to share your gifts of music as we prepare for Sunday worship and the upcoming Lenten Season, culminating on Resurrection Sunday, April 20th.

Our choirs and ensembles praise God each week. This amazing team of dedicated Christians rehearse on Saturdays and Sundays. William Teubner praises with the uplifting sound of the trumpet. How blessed we are with the holy gift of music.

Our rehearsals for the Singing Believers, Bell Choir, Contemporary Ensemble and Chancel Choir are truly inspiring. We always have room in the choirs for additional Music Makers.

Our Schedule

Saturdays

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

Sundays

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

Chancel Choir

Come and sing joyful songs to the Lord! It is a joy to sing together and lift our voices in praise. The Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in preparation for worship. Come before his presence with singing!

Bell Choir

Making a joyful sound is the mission of our Bell Choir. Come and ring handbells and handchimes with your church friends. Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Come and ring with our church family.

Singing Believers

All children and youth are invited to sing the songs of the church. Let us share the Light of Christ through music. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 11:45 a.m. in the Music Room.

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble shares music for Holy Communion each month. The Ensemble prepares music from the contemporary hymnal, "Worship and Song." Rehearsals are on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. and on Communion Sundays at 9:15 a.m. All singers and instrumentalists are welcome.

Come and share your musical gifts and enrich your faith with our Church Family!

With much love,

JoAnne Teubner Prussak
Director of Music

I can be reached through the office number: 908-277-1700, or email:
Office@umcsummit.org

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Join us in celebrating with those who have birthdays and anniversaries
this month!

Click here for our [March](#) and [April](#) Birthdays and Anniversaries

The United Methodist Church of Summit
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