



United Methodist Church of Summit



17 Kent Place Boulevard
Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 277-1700

office@umcsummit.org
umcsummit.org

www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchofSummit

Pastor: Rev. Laura Steele
Director of Music: JoAnne Teubner Prussak
Children, Youth, Family Minister: Carrie-Lee Farnham
Mental Health Minister: Dr. Alison Johnson
Office Manager: Kimberle Gray
Seminary Intern: Daniel Faniyan
Sexton: Fred Herse

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

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: Variations on *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION OF HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(please rise as you are able)

Leader: Welcome, to all who are lost and all who are found,

People: The Shepherd is calling us home!

Leader: Come with hearts of joy, for God seeks us out with love.

People: We have come back home to this church, rejoicing, for we are God's beloved!

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who leaves the ninety-nine to find the lost.

People: With hearts open and voices raised, we worship the Lord who welcomes all!

***CENTERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

Loving Shepherd, We bow down before You this day—some returning home to this church, some arriving for the first time, some weary, and some full of joy. Thank You for never giving up on us, for seeking us out when we are lost, and for celebrating when we come back home. Quiet our hearts in this hour. Still our minds. Open our souls to hear Your Word and receive Your grace. Gather us in, Lord, and make us one in Your love. In the name of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we pray.

Amen.

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

UMH#400 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT:

Rev. Laura Steele

ANTHEM

Make A Joyful Noise to God
Chancel Choir

Allen Pote

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alison Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING:

New Testament: Luke 15:1-7 (NRSV)

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. *This is the Word of God, for the people of God, People: Thanks Be to God.*

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** *(please rise as you are able)*
TFWS#2164 *Sanctuary (sung 3x, last time a cappella)*

SERMON:

Godsend

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 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

***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#381 *Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Majestic Recessional in F Major*

** Denotes please rise in body or spirit as you are able*



Please join us in the Social Hall after worship for Coffee Hour! We welcome all who have come this morning to worship, especially newcomers and visitors among us. Everyone is invited to come to Coffee Hour for refreshments and conversation immediately following the service in our Social Hall by exiting the front of the Sanctuary and proceeding to the door through the breezeway. The

restrooms are located in the back of the sanctuary. We ask everyone to silence their cell phones during the service and note that there are emergency exits in the rear and front right of the Sanctuary. May God bless us all as we gather for worship and fellowship together.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Rev. Tanya Lynn Bennett, Patricia Williams, mother of Dr. John Williams, Dadi Hove, Harry Conway, Kitty - recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Beverly Alexis, Emily LaJeunesse, Patricia Green, the family, friends, and classmates of Dylan Faulkner, Christine Matthews, Janice Matthews, Charles Farnham who is out of the hospital, the family and friends of Summit firefighter Lonnn Mullen

This Week's Schedule

Sunday, September 14th:

KICKOFF SUNDAY

9:15am-10:15am	Social Skills Group (Chapel)
9:30am-10:15am	Chancel Choir
10:30am-11:30am	In-person/online Worship
11:30am-12:30pm	Church Picnic
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Monday, September 15th:

7:45pm-9:30pm	Gamblers Anonymous (Fellowship Room, Chapel)
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Tuesday, September 16th:

9:30am-11:15am	Baby Bandstand (Social Hall)
7:00pm-9:00pm	Trustees/Property Committee meeting (Social Hall)
7:30pm-8:30pm	Pilgrim Group (Fellowship Room)

Friday, September 19th:

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

Saturday, September 20th:

12:00pm-1:00pm	Chancel Choir
1:00pm-1:15pm	Bell Choir
1:15pm-1:30pm	Contemporary Ensemble
1:30pm-3:00pm	Instrumental Rehearsal
2:00pm-10:00pm	Casa de Estudio de Torah (Fellowship Room)
2:30pm-3:30pm	Liturgical Dance

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kick-Off Sunday, September 14th, 2025 - 10:30AM! Join us as we launch a new season of worship, community, and service! Whether you're new to the area, returning after a break, or just looking for a fresh start, Kickoff Sunday is the perfect time to come and see

what our church is all about. We'll have joyful worship, engaging programs for all ages, a church-wide picnic, and **PETTING ZOO!** Join us and invite a friend! All are welcome.



Family Promise of Union County Starlight Gala – Sept. 19th

This year the UMC of Summit will be recognized at the Family Promise of Union County's Starlight Gala as a founding congregation. Would you like to join us as we accept this amazing recognition? We are looking for members who would like to attend and purchase tickets. Please see Myrene Reyes or email: myrene.reyes@gmail.com.

NEW: "Come to the Table" Small Group, Sundays after Church

Starting this summer there will be an extra table set up during Coffee Hour for those who want to dig deeper into God's Word. We are calling this small group "Come to the Table" and you can grab some refreshments and join in conversation and fellowship about the day's Scripture readings and sermon topics. This is a "self-led" group. There is no sign-up or commitment to join this group, just COME TO THE TABLE! All are welcome.



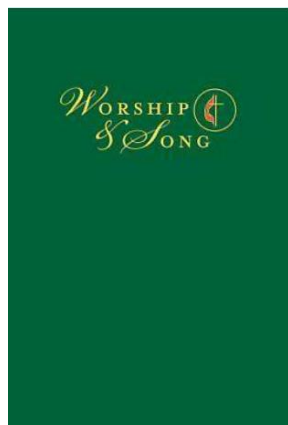


CLOTHING NEEDED!

We are collecting gently used clothing and accessories for the upcoming **Rummage Sale** on October 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's sale will feature clothing, shoes and accessories only (no

furnishings, etc.) Please drop off any donations to the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Faye, Kim or Debbi

NEW Hymnals! Coming Soon! The United Methodist Church of Summit is hoping to refresh our worship experience with new *"Worship and Song"* hymn books that will serve our congregation for years to come. These updated books will enhance our singing and help us continue lifting our voices in praise together. We invite you to support this effort by making a donation toward the purchase of the new hymnals. Any amount is appreciated and will go directly toward the cost of the books. (\$15 each) You can give through our regular offering (please mark it "Hymn Books") or donate online through our church website. Thank you for helping us make a joyful noise to the Lord!



WELCOME ALL MUSIC MAKERS!!

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

Chancel Choir

It is a joy to work together and lift our voices in praise. Our Chancel Choir rehearses on Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in preparation for worship. Come before His presence with singing and sing joyful songs to the Lord! The Chancel Choir shares an anthem each

Sunday as well as leading the congregation in song. Come and share the inspiration of singing with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Bell Choir

Calling all bell ringers!! 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 1:00 and on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Come and ring with our Church Family.

Singing Believers Family Choir

All children, youth and adults 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. Come and share the joyous songs of Christ's church.

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 1:15 and on Communion Sundays at 9:15 a.m. All singers and instrumentalists are welcome to praise and make music to the Lord during the sacred time of the Lord's Supper.



Now that school has started, we're looking forward to all that's ahead in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, especially Kick-Off Sunday, which is happening on September 14th!

Sunday Morning Schedule Starting September 14th:

9:15-10:15AM: Social Skills Group in the Reeves Chapel (Sept. 21st)

10:30-10:45AM: Children grades K-5 start in worship

10:45AM: Children are dismissed to Sunday School

10:45AM-11:30AM: Sunday School in the Education Building, 2nd floor

11:30AM-11:45AM: Coffee Hour in the Social Hall

11:45AM-12:00PM: Singing Believers Family Choir in the Music Room

Sunday School
LESSON PLANS

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
14 Adam & Eve 21 Noah 28 Tower of Babel	5 David 12 Solomon 19 Josiah 26 Jesus, King of Kings	2 Psalm 150 9 David Dancing Before the Ark 16 The Valley of Praise 23 <i>Student Sunday</i> 30 Christmas Pageant Practice
DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
7 Hanging of Scares 14 Journey to Bethlehem 24 Christmas Pageant 24 Christmas Eve 29 Worship Service	4 Worship Service 11 Baptism of the Lord 18 Souper Bowl of Caring 25 Jesus Begins His Ministry	1 The Talents 8 The Good Samaritan 15 Souper Bowl of Caring Count 22 Jesus Says No To Temptation
MARCH	APRIL	MAY
1 Easter Pageant Practice 8 Pageant Practice 15 The Last Supper 22 Peter's Denial 29 Pageant Practice	5 Easter 12 Jesus & Thomas 19 Breakfast on the Beach 26 The Great Commission	3 Jeremiah 10 Timothy 17 Mary & Martha 24 Pentecost 31 Spiritual Gifts
<th>JUNE</th>		JUNE
7 Education Sunday		

Family Christmas Eve Service

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Kick-off September 14th, 10:45AM

Join us as we kick-off an exciting year of learning in our Sunday School program. Children elementary aged begin in worship at 10:30AM and are dismissed to Sunday School with Ms. Carrie after the Children's Sermon. This year we have added some exciting new areas to our Sunday School room: a Bible dress and play area, a new Bible story felt board, a new puppet theater! If you have any questions please contact Children, Youth, and Families Minister Carrie-Lee Farnh

**SOCIAL SKILLS
GROUP**
FOR AGES 8-12



New Group Starting Sept. 21st, 9:15AM-10:15AM in the Chapel

We're excited to invite families—both from our church and the wider community—to a brand-new Social Skills Group for children ages 8 to 12, beginning September 21st. The group will meet every Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 AM, and it's completely free of charge. Taught by Dr. Alison Johnson of Summit Psychological Services. Free and open to the public. Email: MHMinister@umcsummit.org for more info.

2025/2026 Confirmation Classes –start this Fall!

We're excited to kick off this year's Confirmation Classes. This class is open to any and all youth who are interested in learning more about their faith and exploring what it means to become a member of our



church. Whether you're ready to take the next step or just curious to learn more, you're welcome to join us on this journey of discovery, growth, and faith. Please see Pastor Laura for more information.

**LOOKING FOR
ROOM
FOR RENT**

Do you have an extra room or basement area available? Multiple Drew Seminary students are looking for places in Summit, Chatham, or Madison; to stay for the upcoming school year. They are willing to also help with household chores, pet sitting, house sitting, etc. as well as contribute to affordable rental costs. If you or anyone you know has available space, please contact: pastor@umcsummit.org.

YOGAFAITH

Yogafaith is back with Friday classes, at 11am in the Chapel! All levels are welcome. Join us as we stretch our faith while we stretch our bodies! Suggested donation of \$10 per class



**"Wings of Faith" Liturgical Dance Ministry
Resuming classes on September 20, 2025
2:30-3:30PM**

Join the UMC of Summit for our 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!

Make a Difference...

Join a Committee!



Your gifts matter. Your time matters. And your voice matters. Serving on a committee is a wonderful way to grow in faith, build relationships, and use your talents to make a lasting difference in our congregation and community. The following committees are looking for new members:

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): [Carol Conway, Chairperson](#) Supports and nurtures our pastors and staff, ensuring a healthy relationship between church leadership and the congregation. Handles personnel matters, evaluations, and staff support.

Worship Committee: [Alison Johnson, Chairperson](#) Works with the pastor to plan and enhance worship services, including seasonal themes, liturgy, communion, and special events.

Nominations Committee: [Rev. Laura Steele, Chairperson](#) Identifies, invites, and equips church members to serve in leadership and ministry positions.

Lay Leader: [Beverly Alexis](#) Serves as the primary connection between the congregation and the pastor, representing the laity in worship, meetings, and community outreach. Attends GNJUMC Annual Conference each Spring.

Finance Committee: [Jesse Reyes, Chairperson](#) Oversees church budgeting, giving, and financial planning to ensure resources are used faithfully and responsibly.

Hospitality Committee: [Faye Cunningham and Debbi Picorale, Co-Chairs](#) Creates a welcoming environment for members and visitors—organizes fellowship events, coffee hours, and special receptions.

Education Committee: [Carrie-Lee Farnham, Chairperson](#) Supports Sunday School, Bible studies, scholarship program, and spiritual formation programs for children, youth, and adults.

Outreach Committee: [Chairperson Vacant](#) Coordinates mission projects and community partnerships to share Christ's love through service and advocacy.

Music Ministry Committee: [Latoria Hall, Chairperson](#) Supports the music director, choirs, and musicians in providing uplifting music for worship and special events.

Trustees: [Al Lord, Chairperson](#) Manages church property, legal matters, and physical assets to ensure our building and grounds are safe and well maintained.

Property Committee: [Jayme La Jeunesse, Chairperson](#) Works alongside Trustees to handle repairs, maintenance, and improvements for church facilities.

Green Team: [Bill Glancy, Chairperson](#) Dedicated to environmental stewardship by implementing sustainable practices and educating the congregation on the importance of protecting God's creation.

Sermon Notes

key verses:

prayers: